

Freedom of the skies and seas speeds war's third phase



General Horner, ticking off a long list of targets

THE third phase of the war has begun: the "softening up" of Iraqi defensive positions on the front line and along the east coast, with artillery fire and naval bombardment, while the bombers of the allied air campaign continue to target the Republican Guard south of Basra and Iraq's military infrastructure.

The allied commanders insist that everything is going according to schedule. Except for the bad weather and the battle for Khafji, they are probably right. The allied timetable for victory is on course. The bombing campaign has been so successful, and has been carried out with so few losses, that there remains a small chance that a full ground offensive, as opposed to a mopping-up operation, could be avoided.

Even Lieutenant-General "Chuck" Horner, the United States air commander and the man who planned the bombing campaign, has admitted he underestimated the "efficiency" of air power. "There is no getting around it," he said, "these high-tech systems take war to a whole new level of efficiency, and war

As the softening up of Iraqi frontline positions from the air and the sea gathers pace, Michael Evans writes that the "arm's length" war could continue for a few weeks, with just a slim chance of avoiding a full land offensive

has historically been a very inefficient operation."

Efficiency has played a key part in the allied campaign, not just for the military but also for the politicians. Accurate bombing makes military sense because an enemy's offensive capability can be seen to be destroyed day by day. The list of targets, which must run into tens of thousands on General Horner's bombing blueprint, can be steadily ticked off. The only way bombing can be merciful is if it avoids civilian areas. All military targets, it can be argued, are fair game.

Efficient bombing makes political sense, too. Coalition leaders can point to the discriminating nature of the bombing. From the precision attack over the weekend on a fuel storage dump, leaving unscathed a neighbouring

oil refinery plant, to the saturation bombing of the Republican Guard, the campaign can be justified on the basis that efficient bombing will reduce the risk of heavy allied casualties when the ground war begins.

However, now there are accusations that the bombings have claimed many civilian lives. There is also "the turkey shoot" syndrome, the phrase used by one American pilot returning to base, to describe how easy it had been to hit targets. These two developments could begin to win President Saddam Hussein some sympathy, especially among citizens of some of the Arab members of the 28-nation coalition.

Such sympathy would be misplaced. One only has to remember what Saddam's forces have done, and are doing, to Kuwait, including killing at least 7,500 citizens, military and civilian, and plundering the nation of its wealth and infrastructure. Nevertheless, since the allies want to win a moral and political, as well as military, victory it would be counter-productive if "turkey shooting" were to become an accepted catchphrase of the war.

The image of the allies having an easy war belies the skill and courage of the aircrews, particularly the RAF Tornado pilots and navigators involved in dangerous low-level bombing raids. All have had to face heavy anti-aircraft artillery fire and surface-to-air missiles. On the other hand, the Iraqi air force has either decamped to Iran or has declined to spend much time in aerial dogfighting. Those that did

have been shot down. Air supremacy and suppression of Iraqi radars has made the air campaign much safer for the crews and therefore much easier. The freedom of the seas has also now been won, but the Iraqi navy never stood a chance. Allied commanders talked of the threat from patrol craft armed with Exocet missiles. Even though the potential for sinking an allied warship existed, the line-up of naval forces was more in the David and Goliath tradition: one training frigate and between 50 to 60 patrol craft against 176 warships, including six aircraft carriers and two battleships. RAF Lynx helicopters, armed with Sea Skua air-to-surface missiles launched at least five miles from the target, have picked off Iraqi missile boats with comparative ease.

The third phase of the war, introducing naval bombardment and increasing artillery barrages against Iraqi regular troops in southern Kuwait, has started now because Saddam's navy has been eliminated. With freedom of the seas, the two US battle-

ships, USS Missouri and USS Wisconsin, will be able to fire their 16-inch guns at will, with only the faint chance of an Iraqi Exocet-armed bomber appearing on the horizon.

The launching of shells, each weighing more than a ton, on troop and armoured positions in Kuwait, without the Iraqis being able to do anything in return, apart from mounting suicide ground raids across the Saudi border, will have a further demoralising impact on Saddam's forces.

If this arm's-length war continues for several more weeks, as seems likely, the turkey shooting image may become serious enough for Washington and London to explain to their Allies that it is all in the cause of forcing the Iraqis out of Kuwait without having to endure a bloody land battle. One report in the US has suggested that the aim is to destroy half of Iraq's armour and artillery before a ground war will be contemplated. If that is true, there could be a long way to go before General Horner accomplishes his efficiency list.

AMERICA

Saddam 'has shielded some key forces at religious sites'

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE American military admitted yesterday that President Saddam Hussein has managed to shield some command posts, troops and material from round-the-clock air attacks by moving equipment to civilian areas, including schools and religious sites.

Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, an American military spokesman in Saudi Arabia, emphasised that the United States would continue to avoid bombing "anything of religious significance", and was relying on its advanced weaponry to avoid civilian casualties. He said Iraqi ground forces showed little movement yesterday, while the Allies continued to bomb targets in Iraq and Kuwait about once a minute.

President Bush is anxious to avoid hitting mosques in Iraq for fear of inflaming anti-Western sentiment in the Arab countries whose forces are fighting against Iraq in the US-led coalition.

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said the allied campaign was "basically on track", but warned that Iraq's strength was still Saddam's elite Republican Guard - including about 120 brigades and 30 divisions - inside Kuwait.

He also gave a warning of possible terrorist attacks against American and allied soldiers in the Gulf, the reduced but continued risk of Iraqi-launched Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia and Israel, oil spills in the Gulf, and further damage to the infrastructure of Kuwait.

In a routine daily tally of allied action, General Johnston said nine members of the coalition, including Britain and the United States, flew more than 2,700 sorties in the previous 24 hours, bringing to at least 44,000 the total since the war began two-and-a-half weeks ago. The Allies, using 26 jet fighters and six B52s, struck targets in and near Kuwait, including airfields and Iraqi military command centres.

President Bush has instructed his military commanders and

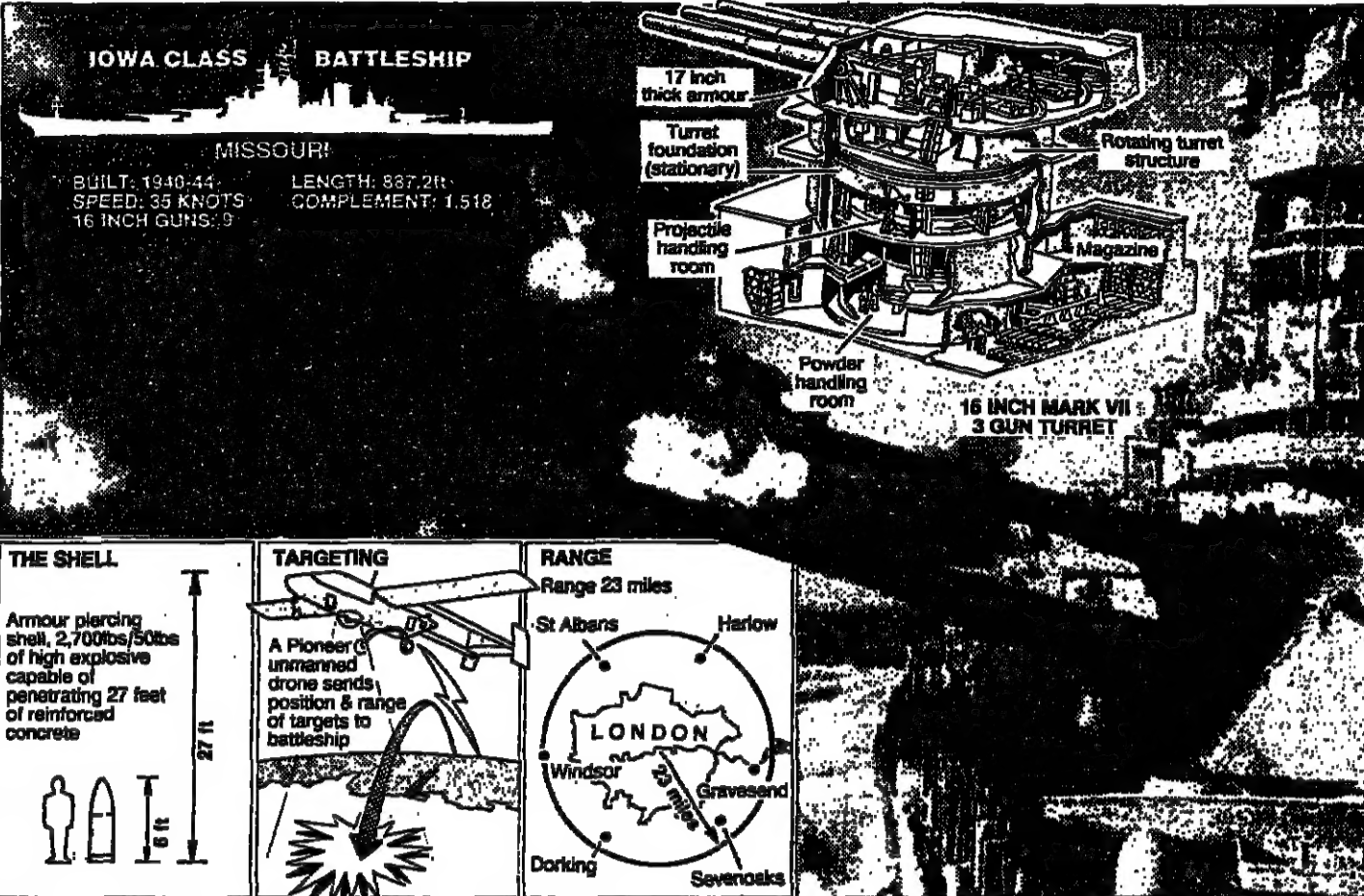
advisers, including General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of American forces in the Gulf, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to bomb Iraqi targets cautiously and methodically to minimise allied and enemy casualties.

General Johnston said the systematic attacks have forced the Iraqi military to cut back its supply convoys and to move military equipment. Convoys of between five and 10 vehicles are moving at night, compared with earlier groups of between 50 and 100, he said. In addition, the allies have destroyed or left burning 25 of 30 Iraqi tanks targeted since Sunday.

General Schwarzkopf told reporters in Saudi Arabia that Iraq's shift of command centres to civilian sites gave the Iraqi military an advantage, since it restricted the Allies' ability to attack. But his forces would not resort to attacks on civilian targets "just to even the score". He said: "Guys in white hats don't do that."

Baghdad has tried for days to manipulate the allied attack on Iraq for propaganda purposes. Iraqi government information officers have taken Western correspondents to civilian areas allegedly bombed by allied aircraft, including a village where a cluster of bombs opened a crater outside a small mosque. But General Schwarzkopf yesterday said much of the damage permitted to be shown on television by Iraqi censors was certainly caused by the fall of Iraqi anti-aircraft fire that had missed its targets. He also suggested that Iraq's claims of 321 civilian deaths during the war were wildly exaggerated.

General Johnston said that the amount of Iraqi anti-aircraft fire had fallen considerably in recent days, but that an Iraqi infantry battalion fired a multiple rocket launcher during an attack by US artillery in the early hours of Monday. The American forces destroyed the launcher.



WEAPONRY

Model help for warship's big guns

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN ISRAELI-built "model aeroplane" powered by a simple two-stroke engine yesterday took the art of naval gunnery into a new era by enabling the awesome power of a battleship's 16-inch guns to be used with a high degree of accuracy for the first time.

The USS Missouri, built in 1944 and the scene of the Japanese surrender at the end of the second world war, had until yesterday fired dozens of accurate, but expensive, Tomahawk cruise missiles at targets in Kuwait and Iraq. But its giant guns, capable of firing armour-piercing shells 23 miles, had remained silent. They were last fired in anger in March 1953 during the Korean war.

But the lack of Iraqi naval and air power, or any land-based threat to the ship, enabled it to sail close to the Kuwaiti coast. Spotter aircraft reported a number of what appeared to be hardened bunkers within range of the guns.

The 74 men in each of the battleship's three turrets had their first chance to prove that the guns under their control were no longer the indiscriminate weapons of terror which had obliterated villages in Lebanon in 1983, when fired by the Missouri's sister ship, New Jersey. They intended to prove that they could now be targeted against hardened bunkers only a few yards wide.

The Pioneer unmanned drone was launched from the stern of the battleship with the aid of a rocket-assisted booster, and flew at about 100mph on a predetermined route above the Iraqi bunkers. In its nose was a small infra-red camera from which images of the target area were relayed back to the ship. As the guns were fired, the gunners were able to see instantly where the shells were falling and to make the tiny adjustments necessary to ensure a direct hit. When the broadsides were completed, the Pioneer, with a wingspan of 15 ft, was directed back to the ship in much the same way that a model aircraft enthusiast would control his aircraft, to be caught in a net strung across the deck.

Two types of shell can be used, one weighing 1,900lb and filled with 154lb of high explosive, and one weighing 2,700lb which, although carrying only 50lb of explosive, can penetrate more than 25 ft of reinforced concrete. The 6ft-long shells travel at 1,500mph as they spin towards their targets and the kinetic energy generated during their flight, together with their explosives, can rip apart any hardened gun emplacement or missile silo.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Ministers slow plans for combined foreign policy

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN foreign ministers yesterday slowed down plans for a common foreign policy, as they reflected on the divisions revealed by the Gulf war at their meeting in Brussels on European Community political reform.

Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's foreign minister, who chaired the meeting, was asked whether the community would have acted differently during the Gulf confrontation if the proposed changes had been in place. He said that the EC's reactions would have been quicker but "essentially the same".

The Twelve remain formally committed to the objective of a common foreign policy, but yesterday's debate foresaw a further round of decisions in the late 1990s. Ministers also agreed to meet privately within the next few weeks on the possible re-organisation of Europe's defence institutions.

The outcome meets the British government's objectives of minimising public differences with European partners, while deferring the hardest questions of European integration for later negotiations.

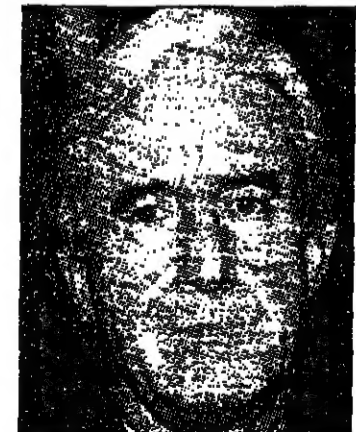
Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was praised for an amiable and constructive intervention which pointed out that the community had acted quickly where it could agree, but that there

remained many points on which countries would continue to differ.

He told the meeting that it would be "dangerous and misguided" to conclude from Europe's Gulf diplomacy that common policies were unwelcome. The Gulf did show, he said, that basic agreement had to be reached between states before there was any point in building machinery for a common foreign policy.

The key question had been whether there was any support for extending majority voting into the area of foreign policy.

There is, instead, broad agree-



Poos: says EC reactions would have been quicker

JAPAN

Kaifu ducks questions on aid for allies

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, is having a bad war. While the allies press him to help the war effort, his political opponents are trying to extract a high political price for Japanese favours.

Yesterday he was to be seen in the Diet struggling to fend off questions from both his own Liberal Democratic party and from opposition parties over precisely how Japan's pledged \$9 billion (£4.6 billion) would be spent in support of the Gulf effort.

Questions were ducked, none too elegantly, as Mr Kaifu declined to confirm that Japanese aid would not be spent on weapons or ammunition. His reluctance to be drawn on the use of the funds is seen as a ploy to lure support from members of the avowedly pacifist opposition party, Komeito.

The backing of Komeito, which holds the casting vote in the opposition-controlled upper house of the Diet, is crucial to gain approval for the government's funding proposal. Leaders of Komeito, known in English as the Clean Government party, are clearly intent on making political capital out of the war. Komeito is after a coalition partnership with the Liberal Democrats and a high-profile cabinet post.

WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 19

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: more than 41,000 allied air missions flown since war began, 27,000 on combat missions.

LOSSES: In the latest border fighting, the Americans lost 8 men in non-combat deaths and three men in action on Sunday. Three US aircraft were lost to non-hostile causes, including one plane and two helicopters. Since the Gulf war began allies have reported 30 men killed in action, including 12 Americans and 18 Saudis. 39 are missing in action, including 26 Americans, eight British, one Italian and four Saudis. The Iraqis have taken 12 prisoners of war, including two British, one Italian and one Kuwaiti.

CLAIMS: Iran's President Raisaniani offered to meet President Saddam Hussein for talks on ending the Gulf war and said he was willing to resume official contact with Washington in the interests of peace. The US battleship Missouri joined multinational air forces and fired 1,25 tonnes shells on Iraqi targets in Kuwait in the first attack on the occupied emirate. US Marines also attacked targets inside Kuwait and exchanged fire with Iraqi troops across the border in separate engagements. No US casualties were reported. Allied F-15s and Tornados flew missions throughout Monday targeting Baghdad's Iraqi ground troops and supply lines. British Jaguar jets attacked Iraqi barracks and Scud missile bases in Kuwait, flying daytime missions with impunity. The Japanese prime minister,

Toshiki Kaifu, said of Japan's proposed \$9 billion Gulf aid package: "It is government policy that the money be used for peaceful purposes such as food, living expenses, transportation and medical purposes." Winds sped up the southern movement through the Gulf of the world's biggest oil slick and fresh Kuwaiti oil was feeding it. Saudi Arabian officials said they were acquiring the latest chemicals produced in the United States to fight the slick and were setting out to combat it in the open seas.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Baghdad radio reported 77 air raids on Sunday night and said nine enemy warplanes had been shot down. The ruling party's newspaper, al-Thawra, said Iraq would use "hit and run tactics" formed by its ancestors and that troops were prepared for more incursions like the one at Khafji. The Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, renewed his condemnation of UN secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuellar, for ignoring the "crimes" being committed against Iraq by the "US-Nato-Zionist alliance".

ALLIED WAR AIMS

Whitehouse spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "Our purpose is to get Iraq out of Kuwait, and we have gone through 12 UN resolutions and are engaged in military conflict to do that. That's where our focus is and we don't expect that to change."

EASTERN EUROPE

Broad backing for 'just war' against aggressor

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN CONTRAST to the mixed feelings about the Gulf war in Western Europe, a surge of public support for the effort to liberate Kuwait has swept across Eastern Europe, where the leaders of the new democracies are giving vigorous support to what they see as a just war.

In Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia opinion polls show overwhelming backing for the American-led coalition. There is a widespread perception of President Saddam Hussein as a brutal dictator and a belief that the world has a moral duty to stand up to Iraqi aggression.

Czechoslovakia has sent a 178-men contingent of volunteers from the Czechoslovak armed forces to Saudi Arabia, who will

soon be joined by 40 more men. The soldiers are chemical weapons experts who are preparing to deal with any nerve agents or poison gas. Hungary and Poland have both sent medical teams.

For most East Europeans, the demonstration of solidarity with the West is an important element in the support for the allies. People's views of the conflict are coloured by their own history. They see the occupation of Kuwait in terms of the need to stand up to oppressors.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia has drawn frequent parallels between the invasion and the oppression of Czechoslovakia by both the Germans and Russians. Hungarians also make comparisons with the Soviet invasion in 1956, with implicit criticism of the West for not acting in the same decisive manner then.

East Europeans have also seen the conflict as a rare chance to play their own role without having to follow the line laid down by Moscow.

"For the first time after a long period of oppression in our history we can freely express our sympathy with the democratic world," President Havel said recently.

Anti-war demonstrations have attracted little support. One recent march in Hungary to the United States embassy attracted only a dozen people and was widely derided in the press. Hungary was one of the first countries to impose sanctions on Baghdad, and parliament unanimously condemned Iraqi aggression. It is also understood to have given permission in a closed session to the Americans to overfly Hungarian air space in supply flights to the Gulf and in bringing wounded back to Ger-

many. Tamas Katona, the Hungarian undersecretary at the foreign ministry, said material contribution to the coalition was "logical and right" as a gesture of its condemnation of the Iraqi aggression.

Warsaw's support has also been firm, though not demonstrative. The government has taken a cautious line. "Poland's support for the security council resolution is not equivalent with support for the war against Iraq," said Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the foreign minister, last week. "Poland does not go beyond the resolution, and does not say what should be done with Iraq."

Poland, like many other East European countries, has suffered considerably from the embargo on Iraq, having lost almost \$3 billion (£1.5 billion). Countries such as Bulgaria have been devastated by

the sharp rise in the price of oil, and by the loss of barter trade with Iraq which is heavily indebted to them. Many East European governments are hoping that their solidarity with the coalition will be rewarded by increased aid.

Official comment, however, has reflected some concern over the scale of allied bombing. In Poland newspapers have also criticised Western arms exporters who sold Iraq equipment and suggested the West has been guilty of hypocrisy.

For many East Europeans, the war has brought out a strong wave of pro-Israeli sympathy. This is partly because the former communist governments, taking their cue from Moscow, refused to restore relations broken after the 1967 war. Diplomatic relations have now been restored and there has been a noticeable cooling towards many Arab governments.

SAUDI ARABIA

Artillery's confidence writ large in desert sand

FROM KEITH DOWKINS WITH THE 1ST ARMOUR DIVISION

THE brigadier was mapping out the coming battle, drawing lines in the sand with the tip of the shepherd's crook he always carries. It seemed a curious implement with which to delineate an encounter between men bent on killing each other. And it would be easy to imagine this soft-spoken Scot with a slow smile to be sketching the route of some Highland walk, were it not for the distant drum-roll of bombing and the looming presence of a dozen big guns. They are his guns and, according to the sand sketch they will be among those to fire the opening shots of the great land offensive. Brigadier Ian Durie, commander of the British artillery in this division, believes it will be an artillery war. Some commanders here, finding one of professional honours taking before a fight, or football managers on the eve of a big game. Their confidence rings hollow, and seems permeated with anxiety. Brigadier Durie reassures. Yes, the Iraqis have an extraordinary number of field pieces and yes, we are probably outnumbered. But, and here the point of his crook describes a firm line in the sand, the scope of their arsenal is itself a source of weakness. President Saddam Hussein's army is furnished with artillery purchased at random,

BAHRAIN

Plea for help on oil spill

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

BAHRAIN has appealed for a multinational effort to tackle the oil slick which threatens a huge area of the Gulf and could cause the extinction of the dugong, the rare sea cow. Jawad al-Arriyad, the health minister and chairman of the Committee for the Protection of the Environment, said attempts to tackle the slick were being hampered by war. Because of military activity in the area, Bahrain could not examine the slick from the air and had to rely on sketchy information from military sources. The slick, measuring more than 50 miles by 20 miles, was believed to be four to six days away from the Bahrain coast, and appeared to have split into three parts. "We are a small country. We simply cannot deal with it on our own. It is the largest known in history and we are appealing for other people to help us," Mr al-Arriyad said. There are fears that the size of the spill will cause problems, since technology does not exist to cope with pollution on such a scale. The sea-grass beds between Bahrain and Qatar, where the dugongs live, could be destroyed, and with them the sea cow. "It is part of our national heritage and we are doing what we can to save it, but the danger is that it could become extinct," Mr al-Arriyad said. Bahrain has sought help from agencies around the world to examine ways to save the dugongs. One option under review is to remove the animals temporarily. Boats have been put around vital installations on the island, but more help is needed in deciding how to remove the oil before fishing grounds, turtle nesting islands, coral reefs and sea birds are irreparably harmed. Volunteers are on stand-by to help to clean up sea birds once the oil reaches the shore, and Canadian experts have flown to Bahrain to advise on the best methods of cleaning beaches without doing further damage with cleaning agents. Bahrain has hosted an emergency meeting of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment, with representatives from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, but Mr al-Arriyad said more financial help and expertise were desperately needed. "This is the biggest catastrophe this area has faced. It was a reckless, thoughtless, inhumane act against life itself." He said the burden of fighting the slick was too much for one country with limited resources.



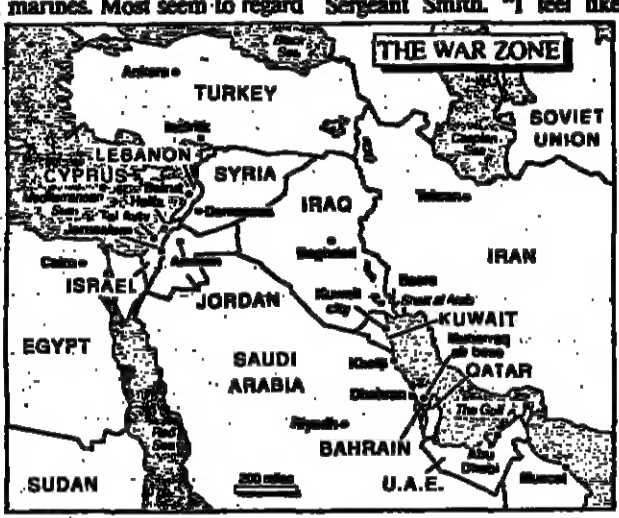
Home thoughts: David Diakins, the mayor of New York, meeting an American soldier yesterday at a Patriot missile battery defending Tel Aviv. Mr Diakins, equipped with a gas mask, is on a tour to show solidarity with Israel, which is being bombed by Scud missiles

SAUDI DESERT

Marines spare a thought for the enemy

FROM PATRICK BISHOP WITH THE US MARINES IN SAUDI ARABIA

STANDING at night in their foxholes, watching with wonder the far-off fireworks of the pulverising B52 bombing raids, American troops are feeling sympathy for those enduring the rain of high explosives. On Saturday night marines in forward positions got their most spectacular demonstration yet of the bombers' destructive capabilities as the jets pounded Iraqi positions along the Kuwait border. "When the B52s came through, the whole ground was just shaking, just trembling," Staff Sergeant Percy Smith, from Atlanta, Georgia, said. About 20 miles further back the ripping bass thud of the explosions could be heard through the personal stereo speakers clamped on the marines' ears. Officers say that the sight of the coalition planes crowding the skies is a "tremendous confidence boost" for the troops below. "When you hear the bombs go off and the ground shake, you know that's our guys out there doing hurt to the enemy," Major Charles Clarke, aged 42, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, said. But "enemy" is a word one rarely hears from ordinary marines. Most seem to regard the opposition as simple soldiers, just doing their job, victims in their way of President Saddam Hussein. When they hear the distant drum roll of another raid they spare a thought for the unfortunates beneath. "I feel for them," said Sergeant Smith. "I feel like I'm glad that I'm on this side and not on their side. I know they're catching hell, I feel really sorry for them." Lance-Corporal Gerald Childress, aged 20, from Spotsylvania, Virginia, with a young wife who is expecting their first child, said: "They're out there doing the same thing we are. They're doing what they think is right - either that or because they are scared for their families. They've got families at home, children on the way and all that good stuff, just like we have." Back at this logistics base the nightly rumble of descending ordnance has become routine. But the noise of the past two days has been of a different order. "It sounded like a volley of 12 or 14 bombs being dropped in one go," said Corporal Joey Treacart, aged 20, of Bridgeport, Maine. "It would go quiet for a while, then you would hear it start up again." Corporal Treacart says he and his comrades feel little animosity towards the men over the horizon. "No one talks about 'the enemy'. They talk about Saddam Hussein. 'Hussein did this. Hussein did that.' His foxhole companion, Corporal Eric Church, chipped in: "They're just like us. They're soldiers doing their jobs." Corporal Treacart said: "We often talk about how much longer it will be before the people overthrow Saddam Hussein. It would be nice to get this thing over with."



JORDAN

US envoys leave Amman after terror alert

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

THE unexpected decision by the State Department on Sunday to advise all Americans to leave Jordan immediately and further to reduce its embassy staff in Amman, follows intelligence assessments thought to show an unacceptable risk to Americans from terrorist attack in Jordan. In a travel advisory issued in Washington, the department cited increasing tension after the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf and a heightened risk to all American citizens. Yesterday at least ten American diplomats were preparing to depart from Amman, leaving only 20 of the original staff of 130 at the mission. Concern for the safety of Americans rose sharply last week when an 18-year-old Jordanian girl was injured in the leg by a bomb planted inside her car. It is now thought the device had been placed in the car by mistake and had been intended for an American diplomat who lived near the girl's home. Various small devices found around Amman in the past two weeks have surprised the security services because of their sophistication. They were "not the work of amateurs", suggesting that a well-organised campaign carried out by experienced bomb makers may be in the offing. The British embassy cut a third of its pre-war complement of 28, together with most dependants, just before the United Nations deadline on January 15. There are no plans at present further to reduce staffing levels in the face of what is regarded as an almost exclusively anti-American threat. The State Department decision coincides with fresh appeals from Baghdad on Sunday for revenge attacks on American interests worldwide. Baghdad radio warned that American civilians would now be regarded as fair game. "The target will not be confined this time to the soldiers of the United States, the mercenaries of its allies, or its collaborators in the Holy lands in the Arabian peninsula," the radio said. It is not clear whether Iraqis are operating independently inside Jordan or whether Palestinian extremists, members of a variety of PLO splinter groups, are planning attacks on their behalf. In one incident two weeks ago what is believed to have been a 1kg explosive device was left outside a branch of the Hong Kong-owned British Bank of the Middle East in Amman. Responsibility for planting the bomb, which was defused, was claimed by a previously unknown group, the Arab Communist Revolutionary Party. Apart from security considerations, there is some speculation that the Americans may be deliberately exaggerating the extent of the threat to them in Jordan and are withdrawing diplomatic staff as a sign to King Hussein of their continued displeasure at his handling of the crisis. Washington-Amman relations took a sudden turn for the worse at the weekend when the State Department spokeswoman appeared to back-pedal on American acquiescence over Jordan's imports of Iraqi oil, calling them a clear violation of the UN embargo. SAUDI ARABIA: Fears of an Iraqi-inspired terrorist campaign against off-duty American troops in Saudi Arabia increased after shots were fired at an hotel bus carrying three American military personnel and a uniformed Saudi guard in the Red Sea port of Jeddah (Christopher Walker writes).



Highway target: the remains of a truck, allegedly bombed by the allies, near the Iraqi border town of Trebil on the main road to Jordan

Troops voice resentment over Islamic rules

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER WITH BRITISH TROOPS IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE other ranks in Saudi Arabia are beginning to chafe against the strict Islamic rules imposed on the 30,000 British troops in Saudi Arabia. Anger with the restrictions demanded by the Saudi authorities has been high for some time, but the British government has been anxious to play it down. Resentment among the British troops increased when on the first Sunday after the air war began, the Saudi authorities banned a mass Christian church service for members of the 4th Armoured Brigade. In addition to feeling the lack of traditional facilities for rest and recreation, the British soldiers are unhappy that they are supposed to disguise their religious faith and about censorship of mail sent to them. Most of the British tabloid newspapers favoured by the troops are banned. Americans censors have also attempted to cite "host nation sensitivity" to prevent reports of such feelings emerging, but these appeals have been ignored by most reporters, who are aware that anti-Saudi sentiment is deeply ingrained among most of the Western troops serving in Operation Desert Storm. Corporal Stephen Quairby, a black British soldier who volunteered for service in Beirut in 1983 when Western forces came under heavy attack by Islamic extremists, was greeted with nods of approval from comrades when he attacked the "hypocrisy" of the Saudis on such issues as alcohol and sex. "We know that they go over the causeway to drink in Bahrain. Everyone knows that they are hypocrites, so why won't they at least let us have a beer when we are fighting, and maybe dying, to defend their country?" the corporal said angrily. "Everyone knows that this war is being fought over oil, yet people are frightened to speak out about it." British soldiers have been promised their first alcohol when they reach Kuwait City, but that, too, will require a drastic change in Kuwaiti laws. Until the Iraqi invasion on August 2 Kuwait was totally dry, like its Saudi neighbour. British soldiers are also inclined to lump all Muslims together, without differentiation. "Muslims in the UK are going to feel a backlash when the soldiers return. We are fighting for their country here, yet we have had to obey all of their rules during the months that we have been here and even now that the fighting has started," said Lance Corporal Gavin Dobson, who comes from Southampton. "They make us obey their rules, but so far the Muslims in Britain have been able to behave according to their own customs. That is unfair and it has got to stop. Why should we have to obey their rules when they do not have to obey ours?" Officers present looked on with some embarrassment

ISRAEL

Shamir risks split in Likud

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THE decision by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, to include an extreme right-winger in his cabinet sends a clear signal to the world that Israel will not consider any exchange of "land for peace" after the Gulf war, observers here say.

In giving Rehavam Zeevi the title of minister without portfolio and membership of the Israeli war cabinet, Mr Shamir has risked not only a blow to Israel's new-found image of moderation and restraint but also a damaging split within the Likud party. Yesterday Benny Begin, son of the former prime minister, Menachem Begin, and a leading Likud "young Turk", described the appointment as "deep moral contamination". Mr Zeevi, a former army general, wants immediate and massive retaliation for Iraqi missile strikes and favours the "transfer" of Palestinians from the occupied territories so that Israel can annex the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Begin is far from being a "dove", but last summer he bitterly attacked Likud party managers for making "unprincipled deals" with ultra-Orthodox religious parties to gain power. Like other "Young Turks" in Likud, including Dan Meridor, the justice minister, Ehud Olmert, the health minister and David Levy, the foreign minister, Mr Begin believes the Zeevi appointment was an unnecessary move at a time when Israel's image has never been better.

But Mr Shamir yesterday imposed "party discipline" and insisted that Likud toe the line when Mr Zeevi's appointment is debated today in the Knesset. Yesterday Mr Begin defiantly insisted that the inclusion of a "lunatic fringe" party such as Mr Zeevi's Moleket in the coalition was "a profound political, moral and social stain, a dangerous infection". For many it would confirm the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism. Mr Begin said, adding: "Someone must say, stop, this is an abomination."

Mr Zeevi insisted that he favoured "voluntary transfer" of Arabs, as opposed to the forcible transfer demanded by the extremist Kach party founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, an avowed racist.

Palestinians and Israeli liberals see the difference as one of nuance. Mr Zeevi said transfer did not mean "expulsion". Instead, in making peace with Arab states, Israel would insist that Palestinians be "removed", because "two peoples cannot live in one country".

Palestinians fear that the Shamir government, which has placed the occupied territories under continuous curfew to prevent disturbances during the war, will use the current emergency to deport Arabs.

Mr Begin said Moleket was more sophisticated and careful than Kach, but its aims were the same. Mr Olmert said "transfer" ran counter to everything Likud stood for, and it was inconceivable that a man holding Mr Zeevi's views should be allowed to enter the mainstream of Israeli life. Mr Meridor described the appointment as a "moral obscenity".

Conference rejected: Mr Shamir, told the Knesset that Israel would have no part in any Middle East peace conference after the war and urged the Allies to "remove this idea from the agenda" and to distance themselves once and for all from the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

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Campaigners' video shows laboratory rabbits struggling under heated lamps

Top scientist is criticised for cruelty to animals

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DISTINGUISHED medical scientist carried out worthless experiments on rabbits and caused them unnecessary suffering, according to a report published by the Medical Research Council yesterday.

Stricter controls of research involving animal experiments are to be introduced by the council, after the practices of Wilhelm Feldberg, aged 89, at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, north London, were exposed by animal rights activists.

Video recordings of his work, showing rabbits struggling violently while he heated their abdomens with an electric lamp, convinced an inquiry team set up by the council that the animals "perished for no discernible beneficial reason", the report says.

The findings are embarrassing for the council and are a huge propaganda bonus for animal rights campaigners. The council-funded institute employs more than 500 people and uses more than 1,000 animals a week, most of them rodents, for experiments.

Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman of the Health Education Authority, who chaired the inquiry, said yesterday: "This case is reverberating around all the medical research establishments in this country. If there were one or two scientists who were thinking of cutting a corner, I am sure they will think differently now."

The rabbits were inadequately anaesthetised by Professor Feldberg and were killed at the end of experiments he believed were important in the study of human diabetes. He became intrigued after a light bulb accident

tally overheated the abdomen of an anaesthetised cat on his operating table, raising the animal's blood sugar levels.

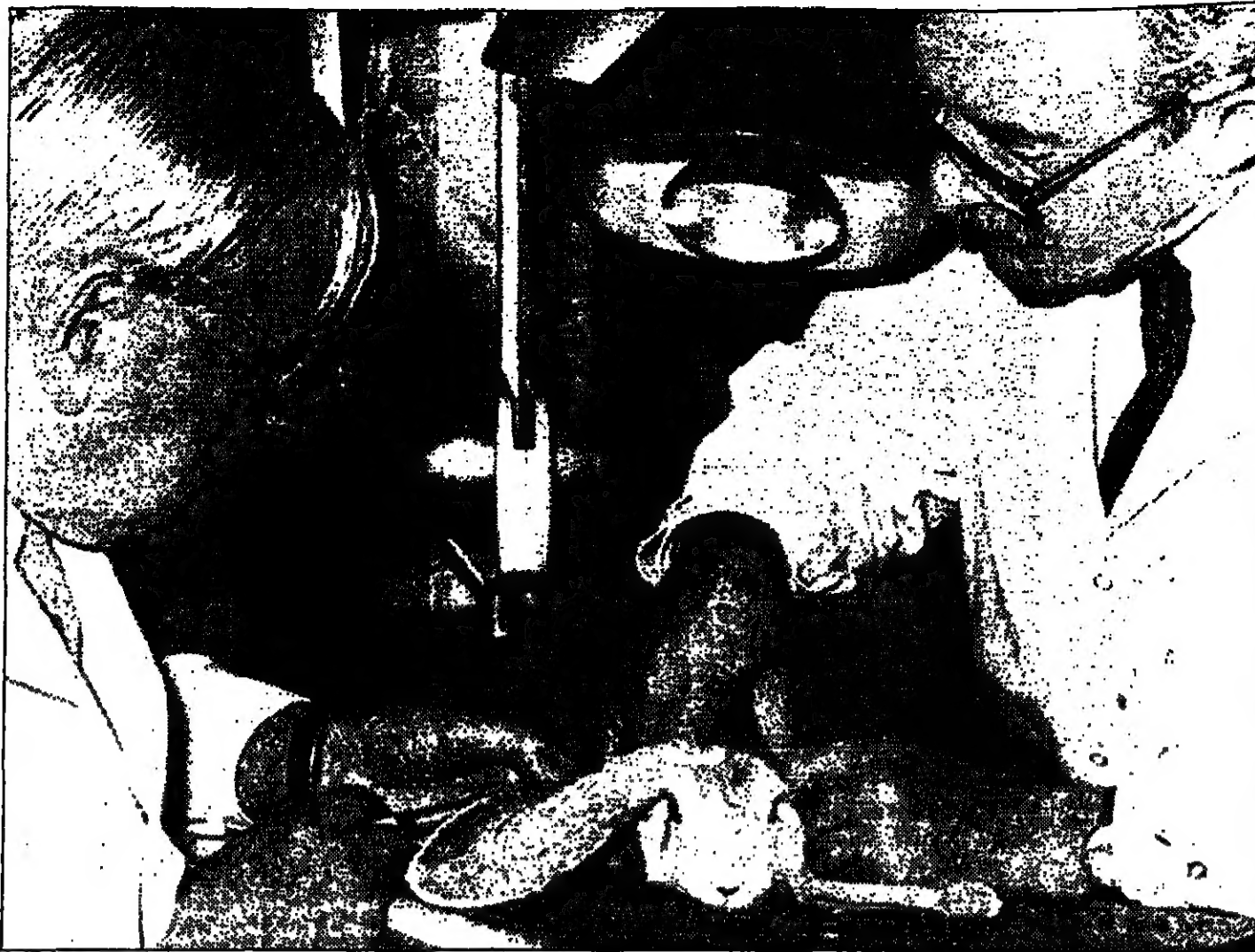
The council should have quickly rejected his application for a research grant to do the work, but he was allowed to continue because of his reputation and compassionate feelings towards him, the report says.

During the experiments on rabbits, carried out between November 1989 and April 1990, Professor Feldberg displayed symptoms of senile dementia. Ironically, Professor Feldberg's greatest work was his contribution to the discovery of the chemical-signalling mechanisms of the brain, which provided the scientific foundation for treatment of mental illnesses such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

"If no animal had suffered and Professor Feldberg had produced some invaluable findings — as he has so often done in the past — we would all be applauding the courage of those who backed him and the extraordinary acumen of a man who ignores his own birth certificate," the report says. "Alas, there was no fairy-tale ending and we must address ourselves to the harsh realities."

The report criticises the role of the council and the Home Office in allowing the experiments to take place. Neither body adequately weighed the likely benefits of the project against the likely adverse effects on the animals involved.

Decisions taken by the council were generated "by compassion rather than scientific judgment... and took no account of the



Professor Feldberg (left) and fellow researcher John Stean testing rabbits which "perished for no discernible reason"

sacrifice of animals which would surely follow," the report says. "A similar submission from a less distinguished applicant would have been rejected peremptorily."

Dai Rees, the council secretary, said: "We accept that unnecessary suffering was caused to up to four rabbits and that there were failings of responsibility." Dr Rees said some of the inquiry's recommendations were already in force and the implementation of others would follow shortly.

He said the council uses about 100,000 animals a year, including 98,000 rodents, 1,000 rabbits, 500 chickens, 500 frogs and 150 of other species. The use of rodents had been halved since 1984, and that of other species had been

reduced even more drastically, he said.

Professor Feldberg's experiments were exposed after Melody MacDonald, an animal rights supporter, persuaded him she was interested in his work. He allowed her and a colleague, Mike Huskisson, an animal rights campaigner, to watch his work over the course of two years.

Mr Huskisson compiled more than 30 hours of videotape that he shot in the laboratory, and the material was acquired by Advocates for Animals, an organisation previously known as the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection.

The organisation then submitted the evidence to the Home

Office last year and released details to the media. The Home Office immediately revoked the licences allowing Professor Feldberg and his technician assistant, John Stean, to carry out experiments. The inquiry was set up as a result.

Les Ward, a spokesman for Advocates for Animals, said at a press conference held by the council yesterday: "We took no satisfaction out of bringing this case but there are people who need to be severely reprimanded, if nothing else." He welcomed the report.

The report recommends that the Home Office reviews annually the research licences held by individuals who have passed their

70th birthday, with particular consideration given to their state of health. It also calls on the council to raise with the Home Office an increase in the number of its inspectors who visit research centres where animal experiments are conducted.

Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, defended her department against the report's criticisms. "The key point is the way in which the experiments were carried out," she said. "We removed the personal and project licences of those involved immediately it became evident that animals had suffered. We have asked the MRC for the evidence they have collected to see if any further action is necessary."

Two more Iraqis are held as risk to security

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO more Iraqi students have been detained and face deportation as risks to national security, the Home Office said yesterday. A total of 52 Iraqis and Palestinians are now being held in prison.

The Home Office advisory panel hearing representations against deportations examined four more cases yesterday, bringing the total in the last week to eight. Further cases are expected to be heard today and Lord Justice Lloyd, who is chairing the panel, has also asked for hearings on possible adjournments.

Last Friday, the panel heard the case of Abbas Cheblak, a noted commentator on Arab affairs and a public supporter of entente with Israel. Jane Coker, his lawyer, said yesterday that the hearing lasted about 45 minutes and she was not allowed to attend either as his lawyer or as a friend. In some hearings by similar panels in the past, lawyers have been present as friends of the people facing deportation.

The new Broadcasting Standards Council is to ask broadcasters for their response after receiving a number of viewers' complaints about television coverage of the Gulf war. A meeting will be held on February 18 (Michael Horsnell writes).

The strongest complaints centre on pictures of allied prisoners of war. Meeting yesterday for the first time, the council decided the matter was too complicated to rule on without a wide canvass of the broadcasters.

A spokeswoman said: "There has been some discussion, but the council has decided the best way to meet the needs of a developing situation is to hold a discussion to consider the wider implications. It's a very difficult area. There are news priorities as well as sensitivities of the public to consider."

Blacks 'face benefit bias'

Social security offices are discriminating against black claimants who are often given incorrect payments or wrongfully denied benefit, a report by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux claims today (Jill Sherman writes).

Black people face humiliation, delays and ultimate hardship in obtaining benefits, and are often asked for passports as proof of identity and racial discrimination is experienced at social security appeal tribunals, the report says.

Claimants who can speak little or no English are refused benefits on the ground that they are not available for work, it says.

Daily video watch

One in two young people spends five hours a week playing video games and four hours daily watching television, according to a survey by the Scout Association. Three per cent had taken drugs and one in ten had been offered drugs or been involved with the police in the past year. Thirteen per cent admitted smoking two packets of cigarettes a day.

Jailed man's plea

The Crown Prosecution Service is not to contest an appeal in London today by a man who alleged that the now-disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad fabricated evidence in his case. Gary Binkins, aged 28, of Winslow Green, Birmingham, was jailed for three years for a jewellery theft in 1986 and is due in the Court of Appeal today to appeal against conviction.

Schoolboy cleared

A schoolboy who killed his alcoholic father walked free from Swansea Crown Court yesterday. Mark Patel, then aged 16, of Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed, caused massive internal injuries to Dr Rajendra Patel, aged 49, when he stamped on him after years of bullying. Mr Patel, who admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, was put on probation for three years.

MP's complaint

The Press Complaints Commission is to deal with a complaint by Clare Short MP against the *News of the World* which she alleged had raked over her private life. The commission announced yesterday that it would be taking over the matter because Ms Short has dropped her threat of legal action against the newspaper.

Short draws level

Nigel Short has won the sixth game of his London world championship qualifying match against Jon Speelman, to tie the match score at 3-3 with two games left. Short, playing white, adopted the old-fashioned and unusual four knights game, and as play progressed it became clear that Speelman was unfamiliar with the nuances of that opening.

SPORTS The Times yesterday: Australia \$11.00, Belgium \$11.00, Canada \$11.00, Denmark \$11.00, Finland \$11.00, France \$11.00, Germany \$11.00, Greece \$11.00, Hungary \$11.00, Italy \$11.00, Japan \$11.00, Korea \$11.00, Mexico \$11.00, Netherlands \$11.00, Poland \$11.00, Portugal \$11.00, Spain \$11.00, Sweden \$11.00, Switzerland \$11.00, Taiwan \$11.00, USA \$11.00.

Kent leader joins call for open poll tax review

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Conservative local government leader yesterday joined growing criticism of the way in which the government's poll tax review is being conducted.

Tony Hart, Tory leader of Kent county council, said there was a grave danger that the review would produce an alternative to the charge that caused as many problems as the tax it replaced.

He said debate about the future of local government was being conducted behind closed doors in Whitehall. "We have got a secret group of civil servants looking at the poll tax and nobody knows what is going on."

"There must be a fear that this review is being done by a lot of accountants and people who do not know how things work in practice. It is a big debate that ought to happen in public."

"There should not be a quick fix concocted by people who have gone from school to university and into a research department without ever having had to work in local government," he said.

His comments echo those of Sir Jack Layden, Labour chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, who said at the weekend that ministers had gone back on a promise to publish options for change. There is mounting concern among council leaders that they are being asked to offer ideas to the review without being given any indication of government thinking in return.

Local government leaders are due to meet Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, on Thursday to discuss the review.

Among Tory ranks there is alarm at the way in which party members are being consulted. Two conferences for Conservative council leaders have been held.

Mr Hart, a long-time supporter of a return to a property-based tax and locally determined business rates, believes that ministers should allow at least two years for a careful study of future plans.

Attempts to end one of the longest of local government strikes were in jeopardy last night when union officials at Greenwich in southeast London rejected part of a settlement deal put forward by the Labour council.

Nalco, the local government officers' union, accused the council of altering the terms under which some of the 300 staff who have been on strike for nine months are to be moved to new jobs when they return to work.

The strikers voted on Friday to end the strike, but reversed that decision yesterday. The council denied making changes and said that it hoped the strike, over payments to cashiers for collecting the poll tax, would end soon.

Labour launches North-West initiative

By RONALD FAUX

RECESSION in the North-West is causing the closure of 100 companies a week and driving unemployment beyond 250,000, Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, said yesterday in Manchester.

Launching the Labour party's industrial policy for the region he said investment in the North-West was falling below its level of ten years ago making Britain the only country in western Europe where investment had dropped during the run-up to 1992. Mr

Brown said that Labour's policy would bridge key gaps in technology, investment, trade and training.

A Labour government would create a regional development agency run by local people to meet local needs with power to develop the infrastructure, invest in new technology, prepare new industrial sites and develop links with the banks and venture capital firms to stimulate long-term investment.

A North-West technology network supported by the govern-

ment would provide a one-stop small business service with technological consultancies helping small businesses benefit from the latest innovations. Regional incentives would be given a training and technology element and a regional dimension added to take-over and merger policy to counter short-term actions. An exports service for the area would help small and medium sized firms break into overseas markets and government action would underpin national training objectives.

Mr Brown said: "The North-

West needs a modern industrial policy for the 1990s to end a situation where we are slipping further behind both the prosperous areas of the United Kingdom and our European competitors." The government, he said, had abandoned regional measures just at a time when they were most needed. The 72 per cent fall in aid to the North-West was the biggest suffered by any region in Britain.

RTZ, the multi-million pound metal and mining group yesterday blamed the fall in world tin prices and the strengthening of sterling against the dollar for a decision to close a Humber-side tin smelting plant with the loss of around 500 jobs (Tim Jones writes).

The decision comes two years after a survival plan was introduced at the plant which had been incurring huge losses.

Gerald Skinner, a spokesman for RTZ said: "Obviously we are very sympathetic with the workforce and the management who face this situation. It has been brought about by the international metal markets and exchange rates."

British Coal is to cut 150 jobs at Creswell colliery, North Derbyshire, in a final effort to halt losses. It is to open a new face for the remaining 550 miners.

A chill breeze ruffles Winchester

TWELVE months ago Winchester was the employment capital of Britain. It had the lowest jobless total in the land, 1.6 per cent of its working population (Paul Wilkinson writes).

But yesterday the city's employers were agreeing with a Labour Party report which claims that even the Conservative heartland of the South-East is experiencing recession.

Winchester's present jobless figure of 2.3 per cent would be the envy of Yorkshire and the North-West, but in Hampshire, Britain's richest county, the upward trend is

a course for concern. With a population of just under 100,000, the city has a high number of independent businesses, nearly 2,000 at the last survey, and they are the ones that suffer.

"There is no doubt that there has been an increase in the number of redundancies, especially in skilled areas," said Tony Peterson, president of Winchester Chamber of Commerce. "I know of one firm of architects which last year had a staff of 40, now they are down to eight."

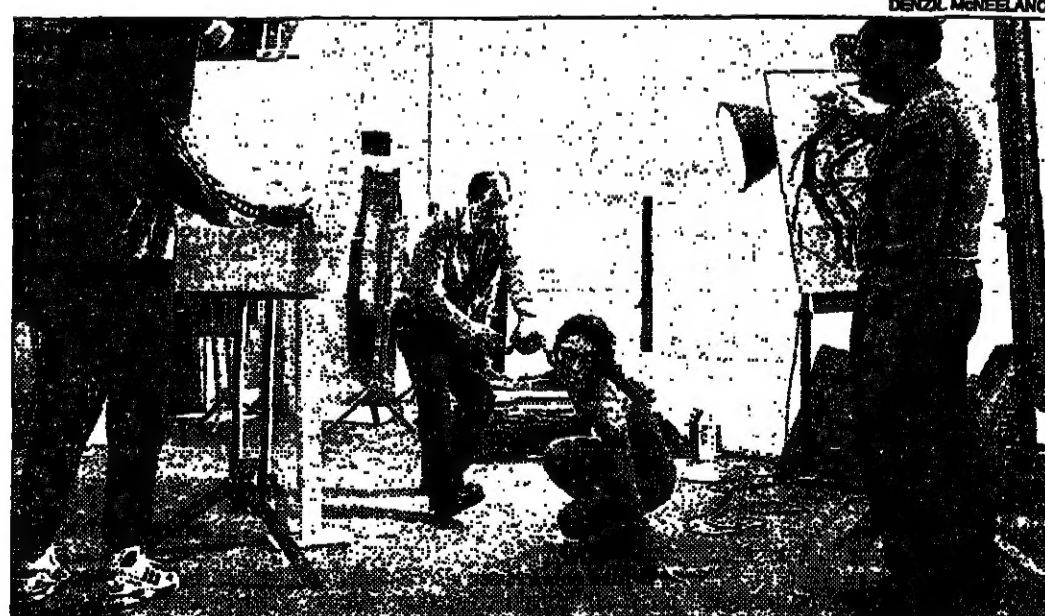
The city's biggest private employer, IBM Computers, which

has 1900 staff at its development headquarters outside Winchester, has announced it will not be recruiting any science graduates this year. Last year the company employed more than 200 nationally. Additionally, 130 jobs are being transferred to Greenock.

David Cowans, chief executive of Winchester City Council, said that his authority was finding it easier to recruit staff, which was "a certain indication that the number of people out of work was increasing." The quality of applicants had increased as people lowered their sights in the search for work.

Tradition broken as the art of drawing comes to life

After 150 years, the Royal College of Art has started drawing classes. Simon Tait joined the artists and a model



Adrian Montford directing model Katia on the right pose as the first lessons start

RCA's infant terrible, almost sent down for not attending lectures, Hockney is now Britain's most successful living artist.

Two years ago the students' union representative spoke up for drawing at the senate. The debate began in earnest when it was discovered that students in at least ten of the 17 departments, particularly industrial design, were hiring their own models and teachers for drawing.

Jocelyn Stevens, the rector, wanted a drawing school to serve all departments, but Bryan Kneale, head of sculpture at the time, told the senate the thing could be "absolutely disastrous if it was stodgy, boring, fashionable". Six months later he found himself appointed the RCA's first professor of drawing.

"What I'm trying to do is extend the thing, not only in the drawing from life which can be taught in a very ordinary way, but by bringing some of the best

people we can think of for different aspects."

Montford is a sculptor who teaches in an ordinary way. He gives his students pain, and there was a wariness in the studio as he called the class of textile designers, stained glass artists and tapestry makers to order.

"When Giotto was asked to compete for the commission of a new church he was too busy to draw anything, but a perfect circle. He got the job," he told us

as Katia wrapped her towel more tightly around her. The RCA's ambition knows no bounds, and we were to be little Giottos.

"You'll find it's impossible, but the secret of drawing is getting it wrong then making it right. You might draw two good lines and the third one is a lie. Make the lie believable."

Then we were to draw Katia, not as we could see her but as we imagined we could if we were standing at 90 degrees away from our easels. "This is when you begin to suffer for your art," Montford growled over my shoulder. "You have to believe that when you've finished it what you've drawn can walk off the page."

The charcoal vestiges of Katia on my page were to stay exactly where they were.

Dilys Stinson has been a successful tapestry maker for 15 years and joined the RCA's course last October for what she calls a creative break. "I need to train my eye and my hand to work together, and that is exactly what I'm learning." Curiously, fine art students are not frequenters of the drawing studio, but they will come. "Artists are turning back to using drawing because it is the most personal way of expressing yourself," Professor Kneale says, and he quotes Henry Moore: "We are all human and the thing we wish to understand most is ourselves."

Leading article, page 11

Evangelical missions to Jews a threat to minorities, bishop says



David Sheppard: call for Christian repentance

THE Rt Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, has warned that the Decade of Evangelism just launched could be a "threatening signal to minority groups who hold other faiths."

"Our repentance from the terrible things Christians have done to Jews down the centuries, including our own, should include renouncing the deliberate targeting of Jewish people for evangelism," he said.

The bishop's warning, published this month in the influential theological journal *The Expository Times*, comes as the Jewish community prepares its defence against an American missionary organisation which plans to set up a permanent base in Britain.

Jews for Jesus evangelists believe that Britain is approaching a "Jesus revolution" similar to that in the US in the 1970s and hopes to open a London office

A leading Anglican has warned against attempts to convert Jews during the Decade of Evangelism. Ruth Gledhill reports on differing Christian approaches

early next year. The Jewish community is stepping up plans to educate its young to help them withstand "missionary attack".

Bishop Sheppard said: "No doubt the greatest threat to Judaism, as to other faiths, comes from secularism; but the fear of manipulation by Christians remains deep."

Jews for Jesus, which is funded by individual donations, wants to develop links with the evangelical community in Britain. Its London office will be independent of the US organisation and will be staffed by British "messianic Jews" who believe in Jesus.

Rabbi Shmuel Arkush, who heads Operations Judaism, an organisation set up to counter the missionaries, said: "The Jews invented the Messiah. We have the patent on him. The Messiah is someone who will bring peace and harmony to the world, salvation to the Jewish people, rebuild the Third Temple and ingather the exiled Jews. Christianity has taken the Messiah and turned him into the Son of God. That is not required by Judaism at all."

Rabbi Arkush tours universities, colleges and synagogues, armed with a 20-minute video "for internal Jewish defence" and examples of missionary literature. Operation Judaism is sponsored

by the Board of Deputies, the office of the Chief Rabbi and the Lubavitch Foundation, an educational organisation. Rabbi Arkush warned of possible violence. "The Jewish community is not violent by any stretch of the imagination, but people are getting fed up by this constant harassment," he said. "The fact is you cannot be Jewish and believe in Jesus."

Jews for Jesus denies aggressive tactics and says Jews are free to take or leave the message printed, often in Hebrew, on pamphlets handed out to adults on busy street corners such as Oxford Circus, central London. Its music group, The Liberated Walling Wall, toured Britain last September and is due to visit again this year.

Moishe Rosen, the Jewish-born Baptist minister who is executive director of Jews for Jesus in the US, said: "The reason we are going is simply because most Jews

continue to believe that being Jewish and believing in Jesus is antithetical.

We would certainly respect someone's opinion if they say they do not want to believe. We do not attempt to persuade, we attempt to make a statement."

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, senior rabbi at the West London Synagogue, said: "They are among the last of the religious triumphalists left. The Jewish community is more than concerned, it is upset. This flies in the face of everything that inter-faith relations are about, it is a betrayal. In a theological way it is saying that God got it wrong. I have never in my life trusted someone who wanted to save my soul."

"What is important for the Jewish community is that we get our act together. There are young people who have become in a way so alienated from their Jewish roots that they will follow almost

any guru who can offer them a formula for salvation."

The Church of England has its own organisation, Church's Ministry among the Jews (CMJ), whose London team is headed by Richard Harvey. He will soon resign from the CMJ and join Jews for Jesus for leadership training in the US, after which he will return to head the organisation in Britain.

According to Prebendary Marcus Braybrooke, an Anglican clergyman engaged in inter-faith work, aiming at Jews during the Decade of Evangelism, which was launched last month by all the main churches, would be "insensitive after the horrors of the Holocaust, for which centuries of Christian anti-Jewish teaching prepared the way". In 1988 the Lambeth Conference rejected "any view of Judaism which sees it as a living fossil, simply superseded by Christianity."

EC proposes 'eco-label' to boost green consumerism

By MICHAEL MCCARTHEY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LABEL that will be put only on products satisfying the toughest rules of environmental worth is being proposed for Europe.

The plans, drawn up in Brussels and to be announced to member governments in the next few days, are likely to revive the interest in green consumerism shown in 1989 which died away after several well-publicised cases of firms making misleading environmental claims for their products.

The European Community eco-label will be granted only to products that satisfy stringent criteria from their manufacturing process, through their use, to their ultimate disposal. These will include propensities for air, water and soil contamination, for waste

and noise production, and for consumption of natural resources and energy. The detailed criteria are to be drawn up by the European Commission.

Although voluntary, the eco-label, which will run for a three-year period, is likely to give a commercial boost to any product. Food, drink and pharmaceuticals will be excluded, as will hazardous substances, as they are already covered by other regulations. A wide range of goods, from aerosol sprays to refrigerators, would initially be eligible, and the commission says that the scheme might later be extended to other products.

The commission proposes to award the label in two stages: candidate products will first be assessed by a body in the member-state concerned

and, if they pass this hurdle, will be referred for the award proper to a jury of 18 people, sitting in Brussels. The jury will consist of one representative from each of the 12 member-states, with the remaining six representing industry, commerce, consumer organisations, environmental groups, the labour movement and the media.

The idea of the Brussels jury is unlikely to commend itself to the British government, which, with the 1992 single market in mind, has been the moving force behind the notion of a single eco-label for the EC. Although it is fully accepted that the criteria must be determined centrally, Britain would prefer the label itself to be awarded at national level, as ministers believe that would be much quicker and avoid bureaucracy. Britain may well press for this in forthcoming negotiations.

The proposed design for the label provides a fine example of the commission practising what it preaches in terms of saving waste and recycling: it has been used at least three times before, as the symbol for the European Year of the Environment in 1987, as the symbol for the commission's own environmental directorate and as the symbol for the EC's environmental strategy for the Mediterranean.

An RSPCA inspector called to the home of a former dog breeder found dogs kept in squalor, magistrates at Launceston, Cornwall, were told. Monica Iviser-Smith, of Altarnun, was fined £500 with £500 costs for causing dogs unnecessary suffering.

Patient stable

Tamara Rainey of Belfast who had a second liver transplant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on her second birthday on Saturday, was said to be in a serious but stable condition yesterday.

School opts out

Governors of the 462-year-old Bingley grammar school in West Yorkshire learnt yesterday that it had become the first to be allowed to opt out of Bradford council control.

Water ban stays

Mid-Kent Water has extended its drought order for another six months because it says water stocks are still well below normal levels.

Payout hopes

Staff at *The Sunday Correspondent* who lost their jobs when it closed in November may receive redundancy payments after the purchase of the title by Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher.

Bond winners

The £250,000 National Savings premium bond prize for February has been won by the holder of bond number 12FW 179425, who lives in Surrey.



Blast aftermath: An official assessing the damage yesterday at the social security office near the UDR base

Education adviser quits 'laughing stock' authority

By CRAIG SETON

A SENIOR education adviser in Birmingham resigned yesterday, claiming that the Labour-controlled city council's education authority was so directionless, bureaucratic and inefficient that it had become a laughing stock.

Dick Atkinson, appointed two years ago at a salary of £36,000 to run a community education initiative, referred in his resignation letter to a "catastrophic defect" in the city's education service.

He said that educational standards were unacceptably low and most children significantly under-achieved. A survey indicated that in parts of Birmingham 87 per cent of children aged eight had a reading age lower than their real age. By the age of 16, only 12 per cent passed GCSE English and eight per cent mathematics, although results were better in other parts of the city.

He urged education officials not to fill his vacancy, but to spend the money saved on creating 12 pre-school posts. The same could be done with the salaries of other education chiefs, he said.

Dr Atkinson said that some of the education department's best officers were leaving because their ideas for running the system efficiently were ignored. Those who stayed were demoralised.

He said that the four schools that had opted out of the authority's control because they felt uncared for might soon become a "blood-flowing

wound". Dr Atkinson, a former lecturer at Birmingham university, was appointed to the St Paul's inner city project at Balsall Heath. His resignation letter said of the authority: "Organisation, relationship and the culture they have produced are so directionless and unrelated to customer need that they might as well not exist for all the good they do."

"Any corner shop or lame duck industry which in today's world had such a sad record of spending other people's money to no avail would be put out of its misery and closed down overnight."

Dr Atkinson said that the service had become a laughing stock in the city's schools. "Again, worse, it has become a standing joke in educational circles throughout the country. Anyone thinking of applying to Birmingham for a teaching or officer job is told by those in the know: 'Think of your career. Go elsewhere.'"

Education officers in Birmingham were said yesterday to be considering a response to Dr Atkinson's letter.

BRIAN Mawhinney, minister of state at the Northern Ireland Office, yesterday said it was a miracle that nobody was killed in the "proxy" bomb explosion in the town of Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry, on Sunday night.

The blast came hours after the conference of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, at which it was emphasised that the republican movement wished to engage in a peace initiative.

The bomb was aimed at a security base but instead damaged 50 houses and commercial premises. Dr Mawhinney cited Sinn Féin's statement that it wanted to help to break the vicious circle of violence. "Their words are empty."

The explosion came after a man from the village of Tobermore, five miles away, was forced to drive a bomb in his van and abandon it outside the Ulster Defence Regiment base. He jumped out of the vehicle, shouting a warning, and the bomb exploded minutes later. The man's wife was also taken hostage at gunpoint but was freed later.

The abducted driver worked for Henry Brothers, a Magherafelt building firm. Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, met Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary last night, and said the Protestants were at "breaking point".

They are charged that, between September 27, 1987 and December 20, 1987, they conspired with others "to defraud such persons who had or might have had an interest in acquiring, disposing of, subscribing for, underwriting, or otherwise dealing in shares of Blue Arrow by dishonestly misleading the market."

The three corporate defendants in the case are County NatWest, NatWest Investment Bank and UBS Phillips and Drew Securities. There are also seven individual defendants: Jonathan Cohen, deputy chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank and chief executive of County NatWest until February 1988; Ste-

phen Clark, group finance director of County NatWest; David Reed, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County NatWest; Nicholas Wells, former County NatWest executive director and a former member of the corporate advisory department; Alan Keat, a partner in Travers Smith Braithwaite, Martin Gibbs, former director of UBS Phillips and Drew; and Christopher Stainforth, former director of UBS Phillips and Drew corporate finance.

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The three corporate defendants in the case are County NatWest, NatWest Investment Bank and UBS Phillips and Drew Securities. There are also seven individual defendants: Jonathan Cohen, deputy chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank and chief executive of County NatWest until February 1988; Ste-

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Minister says bomb belies Sinn Féin pledge

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

BRIAN Mawhinney, minister of state at the Northern Ireland Office, yesterday said it was a miracle that nobody was killed in the "proxy" bomb explosion in the town of Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry, on Sunday night.

The blast came hours after the conference of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, at which it was emphasised that the republican movement wished to engage in a peace initiative.

The bomb was aimed at a security base but instead damaged 50 houses and commercial premises. Dr Mawhinney cited Sinn Féin's statement that it wanted to help to break the vicious circle of violence. "Their words are empty."

The explosion came after a man from the village of Tobermore, five miles away, was forced to drive a bomb in his van and abandon it outside the Ulster Defence Regiment base. He jumped out of the vehicle, shouting a warning, and the bomb exploded minutes later. The man's wife was also taken hostage at gunpoint but was freed later.

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Rose petals in the turn-ups decide fate of a marriage

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE future of a marriage hung yesterday on the number of steps taken by the groom around a holy book. In the end, though, it was the rose petals in the groom's turn-ups that decided the couple's fate.

Prashdev Bedi, the groom, claimed that his marriage was invalid, as he had walked only twice around the Sikh holy book, instead of the four times required by the religion.

In the face of a divorce petition from his wife Inderjit, he was seeking to persuade the judge that his marriage had never taken place. So he cross-petitioned on the ground of jactitation.

The divorce action heard in chambers in Winchester, Hampshire, was probably the last to make use of jactitation — a false assertion by one person of being married to another — as grounds because it was recently removed from the statute book.

Mr Bedi's claim, if successful, might have removed any future financial obligation to his wife, as well as any liability for legal costs.

However, after closely studying the album of the 1965 wedding, the judge, Mr Justice Hollis, spotted rose petals on the trouser bottoms of the groom and ruled that the marriage had taken place. Flower petals, the judge explained, are not thrown at a Sikh wedding until after the ceremony.

The wedding album was produced by Inderjit Bedi, of Earls Road, Portsmouth, Southampton, when her husband Prashdev, an electrical contractor of Desborough Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, cross-petitioned on the ground of jactitation.

Granting Mrs Bedi her de-

ree, Mr Justice Hollis said that Mr Bedi had claimed that the Delhi marriage ceremony in February 1965 in a Sikh temple was never completed.

He and his bride, holding his saffron scarf, had walked only twice round the holy book instead of the required four times. The judge referred to the flower petals and their significance and said that other pictures in the album showed guests and the couple's parents eating sacred food and leaving the reception.

That also indicated that the marriage ceremony had been completed, the judge said. He was satisfied that the couple were legally married.

Mr Bedi was ordered to pay his wife's costs, conservatively estimated at £15,000.

The purpose of a petition for jactitation of marriage was to prevent unjustifiable assertions that marriage existed. The remedy was a declaration by the court that the parties were not married, coupled with an injunction forbidding the respondent from claiming that he or she is married to the petitioner.

The remedy, which derives from the ecclesiastical courts, was rarely used: the last known case, according to the Law Commission, was in 1968 and the commission finally concluded that the suit was "today inappropriate and should be abolished". That was recommended by the commission in 1984 and implemented through the Family Law Act 1986.

The act came into force in stages and the section on jactitation, which is now replaced with a declaration of marital status, came into force in 1988. Yesterday's action, was started before then and is likely to be the last.

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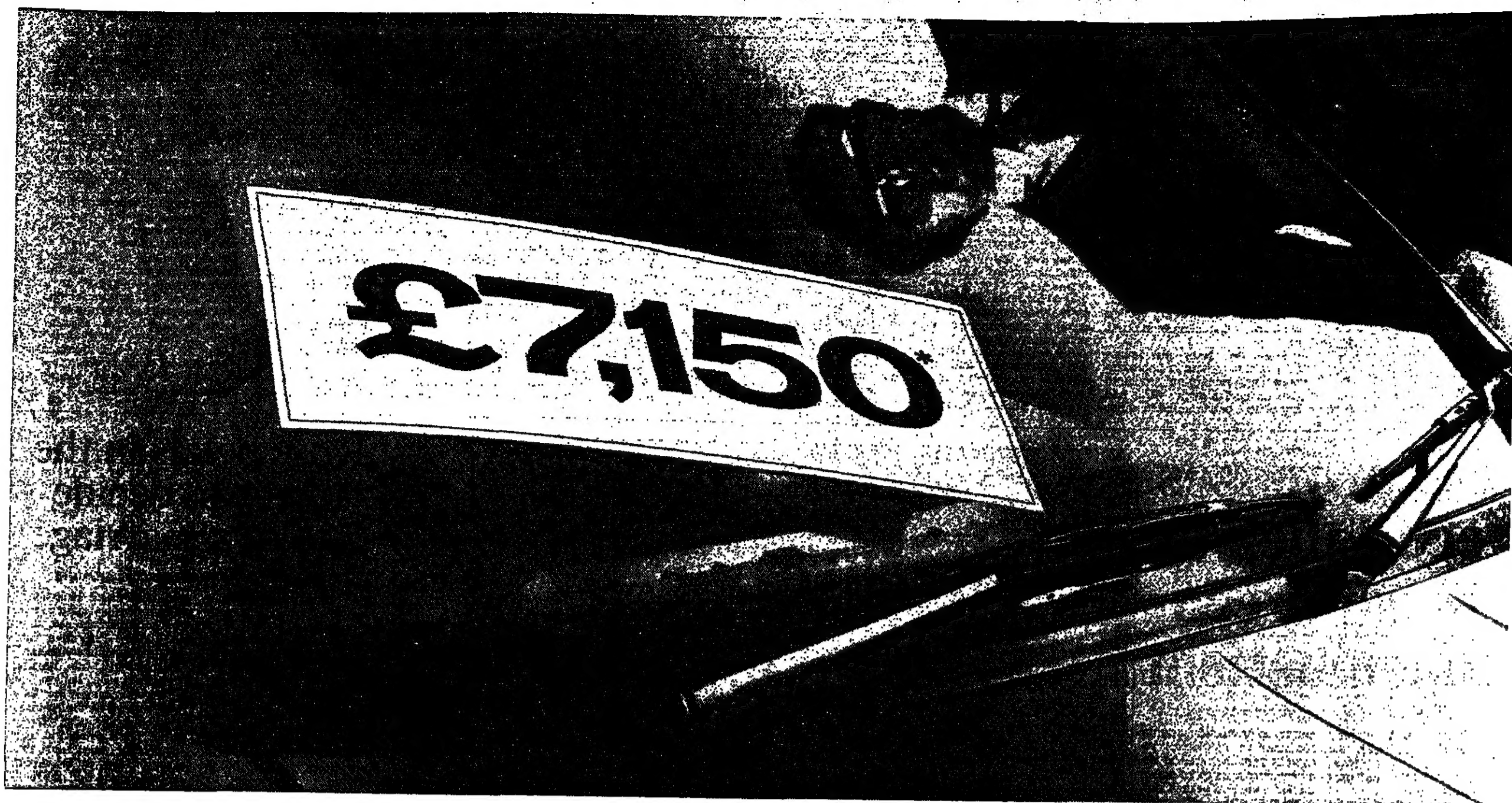
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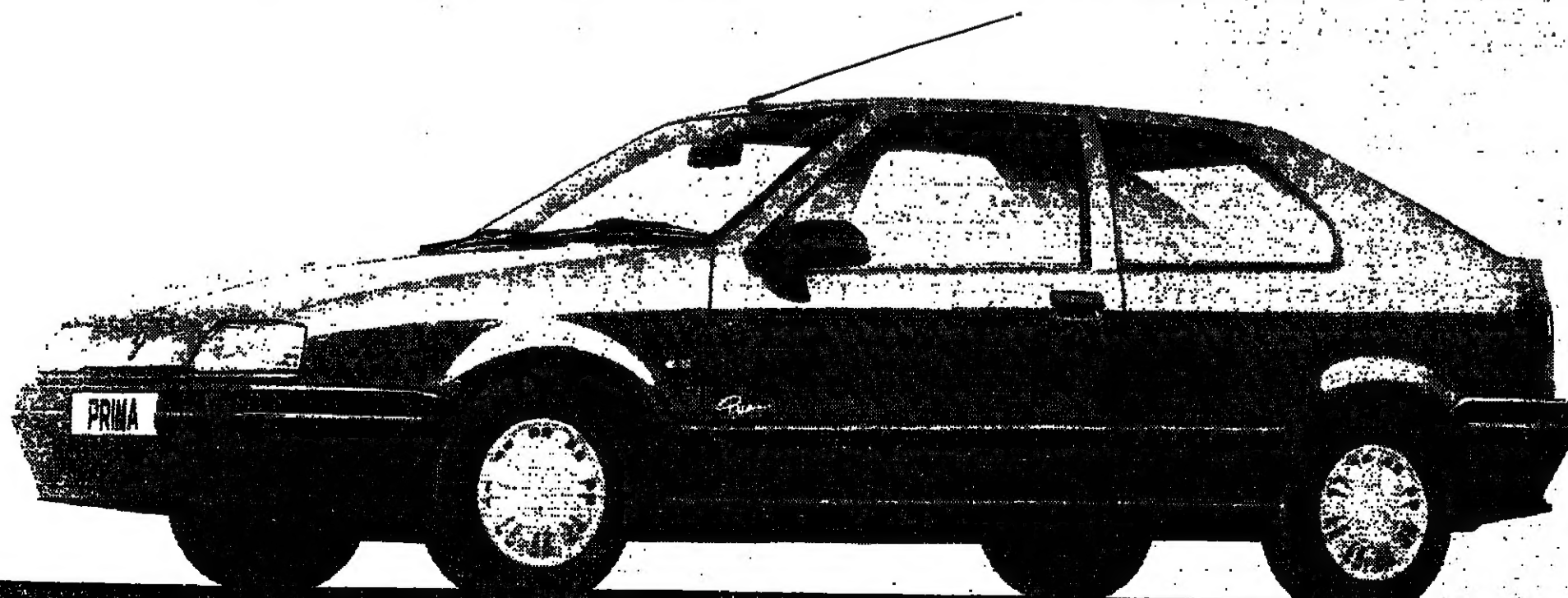
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Talk of early poll leads Labour to renew attack

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Labour party has resumed normal political hostilities. Despite the risk of alienating public opinion while there is a war raging, Neil Kinnock and his team have begun a full attack on the government's economic record.

They have done so for two reasons. The first is that, of the dozen main opinion polls taken since John Major became leader of the Tory party, Labour has led in only one. The party fears the development of government momentum. The second is that Mr Kinnock and his colleagues are aware of the spasm of early election talk among some senior Tories.

A survey by *The Times*, however, has found little appetite on the Tory back benches for such an election. Nor is there any evidence as yet that the prime minister is tempted.

The present five-point Tory lead would put the party back in power with a 40-seat majority if the election were held tomorrow. But that is with a "Gulf factor" clearly at work and Mr Major's personal ratings in the stratosphere. Senior ministers say, however, that the war is unlikely to end "tidily" enough for a triumphalist khaki election, even if that were in the prime minister's nature, which they doubt.

Mr Major himself has told colleagues that trouble on the economy has merely been



postponed and that when the public focuses once again on domestic issues the going will be rough. The war may even be a penalty without it, people would have wearied of the economic arguments by summer. Now they will come to them afresh when the war ends.

So why is there the election talk? First, because some ministers believe that a window of opportunity will present itself in May-June, with the polls still high after a successful war, inflation starting to come down and interest rates beginning to follow. They fear that delay will see the recession biting so hard that recovery later will be difficult.

Second, it is argued that Europe could begin to split the party once again in the summer as the work of the inter-governmental conferences on economic and political union comes to a head. Mr Major told the No Turning Back Group a while back: "There is a wolf coming up the Tory party's garden path and it is called Europe". Better to go to the polls, some say, before he has to present to Parliament an unpalatable Euro-cocktail, perhaps even one to be opposed by a certain Margaret Thatcher.

Third, some close to the prime minister argue that Mr Major is entitled to cash in on his early summer on the ground that as a new prime minister he has done his own thing but bound still by his predecessor's manifesto he needs to win a new mandate. The legislation from that manifesto will be through by then.

Against the early election, others claim that the country already feels it has had a change of government with Mrs Thatcher's departure and would not buy that argument. It is said that Mr Major, as a former chancellor, has to see the economic indicators turn round significantly before he can face the voters with confidence. Labour would claim she was cutting and running. If the markets believed that there was a sniff of truth in that, then prophecies of doom might become self-fulfilling.

Finally, there is the argument that Mr Major has been so preoccupied with the war that he will have no time before the summer to set out new policies. "We have no hymn sheet yet to sing from" one minister said yesterday. The new ideas on education are still in the early morning bath stage, not in the think tanks.

That applies to the poll tax too. The worst trouble has been bought off. But Tories still expect a grim time in this year's local elections. For that reason, they say, any early election would have to be in May on local election day.

A wide spread of MPs canvassed at Westminster yesterday variously called the idea of a "khaki election" crazy, daft and a gambler's throw that would be un-

characteristic of the cautious prime minister.

Senior MPs said that within a three-week campaign people's minds would turn swiftly from the Gulf to the recession, mortgages and poll tax bills. Labour's strong support for United Nations action in the Gulf might reduce any political benefit accruing to the government.

Ministers accept, however, that the June option is one of only three available to the prime minister and they are ensuring that all options are kept open. They believe that an early end to the Gulf war could push speculation to such a pitch that in the end Mr Major would have little alternative. But, although Mr Patten will have the election machine ready for June, the consensus among MPs was that it was more likely to be needed next spring.

Among all MPs contacted yesterday the October option seemed to be fading. The main reason adduced for not going in June — the state of the economy — was seen as an even more valid deterrent in October.

One of the strongest voices for caution came yesterday from Sir Neil MacFarlane, the former minister. He said: "It is nonsense for anyone in the government or central office to start speculating about an early election now, given the range of economic factors we are facing."

"There is a long way to go on the economy and, unless we have an urgent reduction in interest rates now, unemployment will be as big a problem as it was eight years ago. The chill of economic gloom is hitting London and the South-east as much as other regions."

A senior member of the Conservative 1992 executive said that he detected little enthusiasm within the executive for a June election. "I think it would be crazy. Our postbags are not full of letters about the Middle East interest rates and the poll tax are the issues still worrying people."

Sir Robert McCrindle, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said: "I oppose the idea of a khaki election. I would be astonished if anyone in the government or at central office is contemplating such a thing."

"My own belief is that the next election, like most past elections, will be decided by the economy. Increasingly we read evidence that 1992 is the likelier date by which inflation and interest rates will have been reduced and when we would have an opportunity of returning to the prosperity on which our past victories have been based."

Among most MPs one of the factors pointing against June is Mr Major's own personality. He is a consummate politician and if all the indicators were pointing to a June victory he would go down that path. However, it is more likely that he will be swayed by the electoral perils of cutting and running.



Sorrowful parting: Sir David Steel with his rare, 150mph, 1986 Jaguar XJS Eversion estate, which he is selling by auction in London on Friday because his wife, Judy, refuses to drive it

Alcohol-free bars unrealistic

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCHERS have dismissed as unrealistic government hopes that bars selling alcohol-free or low-alcohol drinks to teenagers might be established throughout Britain.

A survey of 60 alcohol-free bars established since 1986 found that half were either operating unprofitably or had closed. The research will disappoint ministers who believe that teenage bars might reduce the problem of under-age drinking and encourage youngsters to learn how to consume alcohol sensibly.

The research, conducted by the Portman Group, a pressure group that aims to promote sensible drinking, found that most youngsters aged under 18 were not interested in alcohol-free or low-alcohol beers or wines, preferring instead soft drinks. Clever marketing and determined management efforts had kept some of the bars open, but many more had failed through lack of turnover.

"While young people are generally

DRINKS RESEARCH

supportive of the idea of an alcohol-free bar, our research indicates that they are only really interested in a place to go and the provision of non-alcoholic beverages is not relevant", the Portman Group said in its report on Sunday. Prospects for bars selling low-alcohol drinks to youngsters aged under 18 were unlikely to be any better, it added.

Alcohol-free bars began appearing in the second half of the Eighties as medical evidence grew of the dangers of alcohol consumption. Most are based in youth clubs run by churches or other organisations, though some have been set up in public houses.

The report said that there was a real need to improve recreational facilities for teenagers. Lack of such outlets, it suggested, drove youngsters into public houses and under-age drinking. It said: "If society's goal is to keep young people

under 18 out of licensed premises and off the streets, alternative leisure facilities must be supplied".

John Roe, director of the Portman Group, said: "Youngsters often go into pubs and buy alcohol not because they want the alcohol, but because they want a nice, warm, social meeting place."

The study suggested that one option was alcohol-free discotheques, specifically aimed at the under-18 age-group. Several were operating commercially, it said.

Local authorities, in particular, could do more to discourage children from going to public houses, the report said, adding: "All local authorities know their area's needs and have premises which could be used to provide entertainment venues for young people."

Interest in teenage bars has been voiced by the Ministerial Group on Alcohol Abuse, an inter-departmental body chaired by John MacGregor, leader of the Commons.



Artistic moment: Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, with Melanie Browning, aged 18, an engraver, during his visit to craft workshops at Pennybank Chambers in Clerkenwell, east London, yesterday

Opposition wants training revamp

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR party leaders moved yesterday to take some of the government's ground on training by putting forward proposals about how compulsory funding of training under a future Labour government would operate.

The government and employers' organisations have criticised Labour's plan to make employers fund training by requiring them to pay a levy if they do not train. The government argues that compulsory funded training has not worked in the past, that it would be bureaucratic, centralised and inflexible and that the voluntary approach is preferable.

But Labour countered those charges yesterday by combining one of the government's present training provisions with a compulsory approach. Ministers are likely to accuse Labour of stealing the government's clothes, and the move away from a fully applied training levy will be coolly received by some on the Labour left.

Labour's initiative is likely to form a key part of an Opposition debate in the Commons tomorrow on training, which will also hear calls for an enquiry into the financial operation of the 82 Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs), the business-led local bodies to which the government has in effect privatised the operation of training. This comes after the leaking of a memorandum from Sir Geoffrey Holland, employment department permanent secretary, that identified weak-

LEVY SCHEME

nesses in the financial management of some TECs and the overpayment of public funds.

In advance of the debate, Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, put forward proposals for the funding of training, combining the obligation to train with the government's Investors in People scheme, under which employers with good training are given a government seal of approval. Labour claims to have proposed the Investors in People scheme first.

Under Mr Blair's new plan, an Investors in People seal of approval would become the "passport to exemption" from Labour's training levy. That marks a change from Labour's last policy review, when it said that employers that did not spend at least 0.5 per cent of their pay bill on training would have to pay the shortfall in a levy. Speaking in London, Mr Blair said that companies meeting the training standard would not have to pay the levy. Those that did not, would.

Badger baiters face six months' jail

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWS against badger baiting are to be stiffened further today by the Home Office.

The changes will mean that for the first time people can be sent to jail for cruelty to badgers. In the past, jail sentences have been restricted to related offences such as maltreatment of the dogs involved in fights.

The announcement by Angela Rumbold, minister of state, will come against the background of increasing ministerial and backbench concern over barbaric maltreatment of badgers. It comes after a briefing from the West Midlands police, who have told Home Office officials that organised gangs have been taking the animals from their sets on the Welsh borders, transporting them many miles and then pitting them against dogs in illegal gambling dens at secret locations such as deserted industrial estates.

To even up the odds, the gangs break the jaws and feet of the badgers.

The organised nature of the crime and the waging of large sums of money mark an intensification of the more

HOME OFFICE

commonplace forms of badger baiting in which packs of terriers are unleashed on the animals as soon as they have been dug out of the ground.

Ministers have already announced that under the Criminal Justice bill now before Parliament the maximum fine for cruelty to badgers will be increased from £2,000 to £5,000. Today's move stiffens the law by giving magistrates the power also to jail offenders for up to six months.

In addition, ministers will remind magistrates that they have the power to confiscate the vans used by the leaders of the gambling rings.

The changes bring the penalties for cruelty to badgers into line with those for maltreatment of domestic animals. They will be announced by Mrs Rumbold today in a new clause amending the Badgers Act, 1973, during the committee stage of the Criminal Justice bill.

However, they are unlikely to satisfy MPs pressing for even stronger measures.



Lenient sentences increased by court

Unduly lenient sentences have been increased in 21 of 25 cases referred to the Court of Appeal, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney-general, said in the Commons yesterday. Sentences had also been increased in the two cases he had referred in Northern Ireland.

John Marshall, Conservative MP for Hendon South, said that an 80 per cent success rate demonstrated the need for the power. He hoped that in their "tariff" of sentences, judges would take account of those increases.

Child benefit will stay

Labour claims that the government is thinking of abolishing child benefit. The claim was rejected by Tony Newton, social security secretary, at question time. He said: "Child benefit is and will remain a strong element of government policy for family support."

Prescriptions

The government supports the principle of nurses prescribing in certain circumstances, Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said in a written reply, but she offered no hope of legislation before the spring of next year.

Law need

The crown prosecution service has 1,717 lawyers in post against an increased total requirement of 2,053, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney-general, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; prime minister. Statutory Sick Pay bill, Lords amendments. Lords (2.30): New Roads and Street Works bill, report, second day. Debate on Aids.

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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White House calls for \$3.7bn reduction in defence spending

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHILE half the Pentagon has been concentrating on the huge military build-up in the Gulf, the other half has been working on a military wind-down of equal magnitude over the next five years that has been made possible by the ending of the Cold War.

President Bush yesterday sent Congress a proposed \$1,450 billion (£763 billion) federal budget for 1992 which envisaged steady annual cuts in the US defence budget and aimed to cut America's two million-strong armed forces by nearly a quarter by 1995.

The White House budget proposed defence spending of \$295.2 billion next year, \$3.7 billion less than this year even before inflation is taken into account although the cost of the Gulf war is excluded. The Pentagon will soon

send Congress a separate emergency funding request for \$15 billion towards the costs of Operation Desert Storm, hoping international contributions will cover the rest.

Defence spending would fall by an average of about three per cent a year in real terms under the proposed budget, and in 1996 would be 34 per cent lower than in 1985, the highest point of the Reagan administration's military build-up.

The overall aim is radically to restructure America's armed forces from a body designed to counter the global Soviet threat to a smaller, more mobile organisation capable of dealing with sudden regional emergencies like the Gulf crisis but still backed by a strategic nuclear force. "The in-

tent by 1995 is to design a force structure that is still capable of responding to the kinds of things we are encountering in the Middle East today," said a senior Pentagon official.

Nearly two dozen big weapons programmes are to be stretched out or terminated, including the Trident submarine programme after the production of 18 instead of 24 vessels.

Total manpower would fall by more than 111,000 next year, and by around 400,000 by the end of 1995. By that time the number of active Army divisions should have fallen from 13 to 12, aircraft carriers from 13 to 12, naval ships from 545 to 451 and air force wings, active and reserve, from 36 to 26.5. Reflecting the lessons learnt during the Gulf war, the A-10 anti-tank plane has been saved, and much more is to be spent on additional transport ships and on building stocks of military equipment at forward bases abroad.

The most controversial aspects of the administration's budget are requests for \$4.58 billion for the beleaguered Strategic Defence Initiative ("star wars"), nearly \$1.7 billion more than this year, and \$4.8 billion for four more radar-evading B-2 "Stealth" bombers, the programme which Congress very nearly killed this year. Congress is expected to oppose both.

Critics of the success of the Patriot anti-missile missile against Iraqi Scuds, Mr Bush sought to breathe new life into SDI in his State of the Union address last week by announcing that it would be refocused on defending against limited ballistic missile attacks rather than an all-out Soviet attack. Spending on theatre missile defences for foreign operations is to rise from \$280 million to \$600 million.

Last year, with Democrats seeking a substantial "peace dividend", Congress cut by several billion dollars the amount the administration requested for defence, and many congressmen were seeking to do the same again this year, but two factors will complicate the arguments.

At a moment when global tensions seemed to be rapidly diminishing, the Gulf crisis suddenly erupted, demonstrating the importance of America retaining a strong military. In recent weeks, hardline communists and the Soviet military, which still controls roughly 25,000 nuclear warheads, have begun to reassert themselves in Moscow with a consequent deterioration in super-power relations.

Details, page 21

Star wars benefits in proposed Bush budget

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE strategic defence initiative is a beneficiary of the defence budget proposed by President Bush to Congress yesterday. Amid cuts to weapons systems such as the Trident submarine and the F16 fighter, "star wars" will get an extra \$1.68 billion (£850 million) next year, if Mr Bush gets his way.

In a budget of \$295.2 billion, \$3.7 billion less than this year, star wars will get \$4.58 billion, significantly higher than this year's \$2.9 billion. The request marks something of a renaissance for star wars, which has been battling against a sceptical Congress.

The success of the Patriot missiles in the Gulf, and a test last week in which a warhead was intercepted and destroyed 100 miles up in space, have helped a programme that for much of its life has been sustained by little more than wishful thinking. President Reagan's dream of a missile-proof shield in space that would render nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete" has been trimmed down by Congress and President Bush to a more modest objective. In his state of the union address Mr Bush said that he had directed the star wars programme to devote itself to providing protection from limited ballistic missile strikes.

This is the concept known as PALS, or protection against limited strikes, which is supported by Henry F. Cooper, the strategic defence initiative director. He envisages a system that would

defend against a few dozen or a few hundred missiles.

The system focuses on providing ground-based "point defence" for key targets, as the Patriot missiles have done in Israel and Saudi Arabia, and using space-based systems to defend against strikes by a limited number of intercontinental missiles.

For star wars enthusiasts, President Bush's endorsement of PALS has the advantage of keeping the programme alive, and holding out the prospect of an eventual return to the original concept.

The success of the Patriots is not without irony, because the missile has never been part of the star wars programme. Originally developed as an anti-aircraft weapon and given more advanced software to tackle missiles travelling at five times the speed of sound, its success in the Gulf has nevertheless delighted star wars proponents. "The point is that ballistic missile defence works," Jon Kyl, a member of the House armed services committee, said.

Tuesday's test of a more advanced system has added to the optimism. An Interceptor missile, known as the Exoatmospheric Reentry Vehicle Interceptor System, or Eris (appropriately enough, the Greek goddess of strife) was launched from Meck Island in the Kwajalein atoll in the South Pacific, flew more than 100 miles into space and collided successfully with a mock warhead from a Minuteman missile.

Khmer Rouge mount big tank attack

Phnom Penh - Cambodian resistance guerrillas, supported by tanks, have launched attacks on government positions in the north and west of the country.

Government sources said there had been fighting in the past few days with non-communist factions of the three-party resistance alliance near Svay Chhak, close to northwest Cambodia's border with Thailand, and with the Marxist Khmer Rouge in the Pailin area in the west.

Hor Nam Hong, the foreign minister, said that the Khmer Rouge had launched a large-scale offensive in the Pailin area with five tanks. The group was apparently bent on capturing Battambang province, in which the remaining town is located. First reports indicated that Phnom Penh's armed forces had knocked out one tank and an American-made armoured personnel carrier. (AP)

Occhetto fails

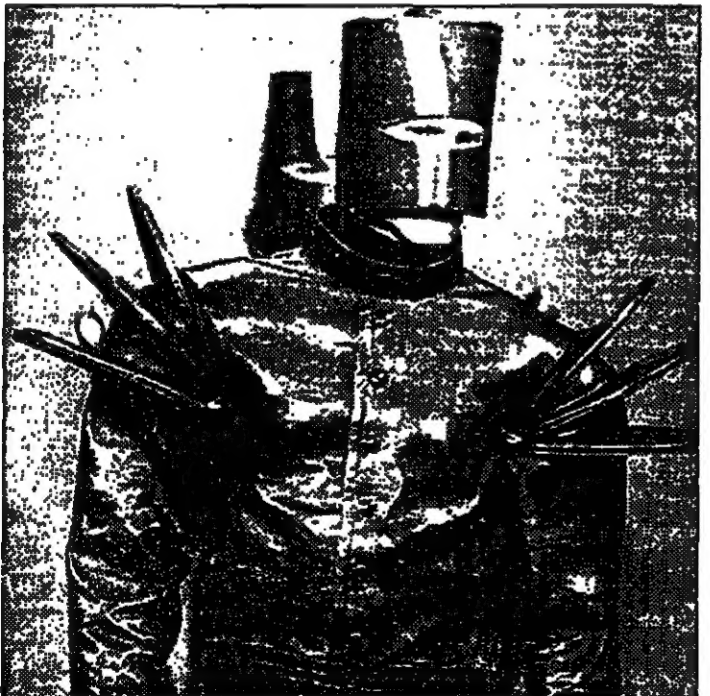
Rimini - Achille Occhetto, the leader of Italy's defunct Communist party, failed to win election as head of the Democratic Party of the Left, formed from its ashes. At the end of the Communist party congress, he fell eight votes short of the absolute majority needed to become secretary of the new group established on Sunday. (Reuters)

Racist charge

Sydney - Racist treatment of Aborigines in Australia amounts to genocide, Dr Janice Love, an executive of the World Council of Churches, said yesterday. Delegates from the Seventh World Assembly of the council, which meets in Canberra this week, visited two Aboriginal settlements last week. (Reuters)

Smuggler shot

Delhi - Doctors examining the X-ray of a man shot by his jilted fiancée found eight gold pieces he had swallowed in an attempt to smuggle them. Taranjit Singh was arrested while still in hospital. His fiancée, Sander Kaur, aged 18, who turned the gun on herself after shooting him, is seriously ill in the same hospital. She faces charges of attempted murder. (AP)



Cardin's time-warp: Pierre Cardin, the couturier who pioneered the miniskirt and space suit styles and extra-terrestrial headresses in the 1960s, seems still locked in his personal time-warp (Liz Smith writes). In his latest collection of menswear, just shown in Paris, the flying saucers or space discs of delicate organza, that originally took off to swirl around necklines and buns in his couture line for women, have landed menacingly as ridges on the shoulders of leather jackets, worn with face-covering helmets. Perhaps he might be finding some inspiration in the protective suits issued to troops against chemical warfare in the Gulf.

Prince's ghostly laughter haunts the rulers of Laos

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PAKSE, LAOS

THE ghost of a prince, a cruel, earthy, fun-loving figure who liked pretty girls and right-wing politics, still seems to haunt the communist authorities in this unofficial capital of southern Laos.

Prince Boun Oum of Champassak may be dead, but he is hard to forget. His huge white unfinished palace occupies a prime site and dominates this town at the confluence of the Mekong and Se Don rivers, and his exploits are still spoken of with awe.

Local people say the palace, now called People's House, has a thousand rooms, though that may be an exaggeration. They boast that it would take one person three days to open and shut every door in it.

Now the provincial committee of the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party is trying to decide whether to turn the palace into an hotel for tourists or a socialist cultural centre.

Prince Boun Oum was a virulent anti-communist who fought against Pathet Lao for years, and during the 1960s served as prime minister of the revolving-door Laotian government in Vientiane, the capital.

Descended from the royal family that once ruled southern Laos as a separate kingdom, he

fled from the country in 1975 shortly before Pathet Lao took power. If he had stayed, he might have shared the fate of King Savang Vatthana of Laos, who died in a communist "re-education" camp.

Some people here say Boun Oum was a brute; that is also the view of party officials. "He was very fond of girls and when he saw a pretty one he sent his soldiers to bring her to him," Bualay Sisomvang, the Champassak province party chief, said.

But there are other versions. Some educated Laotians say the prince had his good points, though he did tend to seize peasants' plots, including the land on which he was building his palace when he fled. The prince led a guerrilla struggle against Japanese occupation during the second world war.

Ordinary folk here seem to have liked him for the huge parties he threw at traditional festivals, where he allowed himself to be the butt of jokes.

"Powerful prince, you are enormously fat, you are ugly, and you are old, and yet you ask me to speak to you of love," pretty girls sang to the corpulent potentate during the festivals, where rice wine flowed freely. "I am not blind

— how could I speak of love to such a you?" Prince Boun Oum would guffaw and sing back through an intermediary: "You are right to say that, pretty maid. It's true that I am old, I am fat, I am ugly. But I am like a tough old elephant who would leave you ivory when it dies."

Probably nobody has laughed as much in communist Laos since.

They still talk here of his departure as the communists closed in. He left for Thailand in a cavalcade of five elephants, several lorries and a phalanx of bodyguards. They were loaded down, it is said, with priceless artefacts from the ancient Khmer temple of Wat Phn near here.

"The Pathet Lao could probably have stopped him, but for their own reasons they let him go," said a man who was here at the time.

Trying to exorcise the ghost of Prince Boun Oum, who died in Paris in 1984, aged 72, the local authorities have done some curious things. Ceiling frescos in Prince Boun Oum's private chambers, which formerly showed royal mahouts riding elephants, have been partly painted over. The mahouts have been given hard hats, and are carrying hammers.



Prince Boun Oum: dead but impossible to forget

Moscow warns world against intervening in Baltic problem

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW served warning yesterday that it would resist any attempt to internationalise events in the Baltic republics, and would regard any foreign intervention as interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs.

The warning was issued by Vitali Churkin, the foreign ministry spokesman, after Friday's announcement that President Gorbachev had appointed three delegations to conduct talks with Baltic leaders on their relations with Moscow.

Meanwhile, there was confirmation from the Russian Federation that Boris Yeltsin, its president, was planning to complete an agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan, Belorussia and the Ukraine to bring together more than 80 per cent of the population of the country, as well as the bulk of its natural resources, possibly forming the nucleus of an "alternative" Soviet Union. A meeting is expected this week between working groups of the four republics to discuss the small print of the agreement.

The possibility that the leader of Russia could succeed in formalising an economic and political agreement with three of the country's most important republics has clearly alarmed President Gorbachev and the central leadership. On Friday a meeting of the Council of the Federation, the president's newly revamped executive body comprising leaders of all the Soviet Union's 15 republics, broke up without agreeing on the president's blueprint for a new Soviet Union, the new union treaty.

On the previous day, a meeting of the Communist party's central committee — in speeches published only yesterday — had heard vitriolic criticism of Mr Yeltsin's approach to relations between the republics. Yuri Prokofyev, the head of the party organisation in Moscow, was quoted as saying that Russia's conclusion of agreements with other republics was part of an attempt to form a "so-called commonwealth of sovereign states" and "remove the authority of the present central administration".

The Russian Federation has so far signed agreements, resembling international treaties, with the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belorussia and with all three Baltic republics. All recognise the right of each republic to economic and political sovereignty and assume co-operation on a mutually beneficial basis and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Three weeks ago, after the killings in Lithuania, in a step which particularly irked the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin supported an "all-Baltic" conference for the three Baltic republics for United Nations intervention to decide the vexed question of their indepen-

dence from the Soviet Union. The suggestion that outsiders might intervene was condemned by Soviet officials as "degrading".

Mr Yeltsin's success in drawing the leaders of other republics into his — and Russia's — orbit has cast President Gorbachev's failure into sharper relief. His plans for a nationwide referendum to support the ill-starred union treaty, to be held on March 17, are already running into trouble. Two of the Baltic republics — Lithuania and Estonia — have announced their own referendums to be held before the all-union one, and the Russian Federation's parliament has proposed adding two questions to the referendum on its territory which would enhance the authority of Mr Yeltsin. President Gorbachev thus faces the real prospect that Mr Yeltsin, through a series of almost unnoticed negotiations

and agreements, will succeed, where he has so far signally failed, in keeping much of the Soviet Union voluntarily together.

In a related development, a Pravda dispatch from London yesterday commented favourably on recent remarks by the British prime minister, which it interpreted as softening Britain's position towards Moscow following the violence in the Baltic republics. The report, headed "We will wait before drawing conclusions", said that John Major's statements had "stemmed the wave of official criticism". However, the Pravda correspondent could not make up his mind whether this was "a result of a conscious change of emphasis in the British position or evidence of hesitation about how to proceed".

Western dilemmas, page 10

Kremlin to control exodus of workers

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet government is to set up a state migration agency to deal with the expected mass exodus of workers to the West.

Although Moscow believes the number of potential emigrants to be far lower than the 40 million some have predicted, Vladimir Shcherbakov, the head of the Soviet State Committee on Labour and Social Matters, said yesterday that those wishing to leave the country would be allowed to do so only through official channels.

Mr Shcherbakov said that the new agency's role would be to ensure that prospective emigrants out of the Soviet Union's 140 million workers had jobs guaranteed in the West, and to help to find foreign training for well educated Soviet citizens in specific fields, such as law.

"We must give thought to developing our employment infrastructure. We plan to ask foreign countries for help on initial advice and on on-the-job training," he said.

He added that the labour committee predicted up to five million people could take advantage of freedom to emigrate. "This is the approximate number of people who are considering leaving. When the question arises if a person genuinely intends to go to work abroad, the answer becomes more difficult and I think that only two million people can be seen as seriously seeking employment in the West."

If the travel bill, which has been delayed for more than six months, becomes law during the next sitting of the Supreme Soviet, it

should, in theory, take only one month before a Soviet citizen will be free to emigrate.

However, Mr Shcherbakov said that more basic problems still had to be solved, such as the chronic inefficiency of the Soviet Union's emigration service, Uvtr. He said: "Uvtr can handle only two million passport forms a year and Shcherbakov in Moscow is probably the worst airport I've ever seen."

He admitted that the possible exodus could become a brain drain, undermining the country's economic future. "People are the best capital in any country and we understand you cannot keep them by force. We want to create conditions whereby people do not wish to leave the country, not by not letting them go, but by giving them decent living conditions. We are prepared to use normal processes that exist in the civilised countries," he said.

BONN: A growing trickle of deserters from the Soviet army in eastern Germany is seeking asylum in the West, according to figures released yesterday by the interior ministry. These show that 110 Soviet soldiers have applied for asylum, 60 of them last month, compared with fewer than 50 in the three months after unification in October (Jan Murray writes).

The 600,000 troops and their families are all meant to have left Germany by 1994 and the Soviet authorities have promised that at least 150,000 of them will be out by the end of this year. However, the authorities here are worried that the growing difficulties in the Soviet Union will persuade thousands of the troops to seek asylum.

Croatians challenge role of the army

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CROATIA stepped up its war of words against Serbia yesterday, saying that it would not take part in further federal discussions until politics were removed from the Yugoslav army.

A telegram is being sent today to the Yugoslav presidency by the Croatian leadership denouncing Borisav Jovic, the Yugoslav president. It accuses him of "being the tool of those who wish to impose a greater Serbia on Croatia".

Mr Jovic has repeatedly acted without the authority of the Yugoslav presidency, two of whose members, Croatia and Slovenia, are weary of Belgrade's attempts to bully the democratic northern republics. As a Serb, Mr Jovic is hostile towards the Croats.

Mr Jovic has accused the Croats of breaking an agreement by not demobilising reserves whom the Yugoslav army accuses of plotting terror attacks against Serbian families. The Croatian leadership has responded by saying that the army continues to threaten Croatian interests.

Croats in Zagreb remain deeply suspicious of the Yugoslav army's intentions. In a small garage in a suburb, an arms shop has been set up where scores of civilians are buying weapons daily. These range from relatively modern sub-machineguns and revolvers to what appear to be outdated rifles, including Lee-Enfield 303s.

The owner of the shop, who refused to give his name, said that the weapons had been purchased from "a number of sources". He said it was necessary for Croats to be prepared because of the threatening stance of the Yugoslav army. "Even old ladies should have weapons these days," he remarked.

In Belgrade, the recently resurrected League of Communists, containing several senior army officers who are dedicated to reviving communism, reiterated its determination to be "the leading political force in Yugoslavia by May".

In May, under the rotating presidential system bequeathed by Tito, Mr Jovic will step down and make way for Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the federal presidency.

As the president is also in theory commander-in-chief of the federal army, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Yugoslav military's political ambitions will have to be realised while Mr Jovic is president. Mr Mesic has repeatedly said that he would boycott presidential meetings to determine Yugoslavia's future unless the army was firmly excluded from political decision-making. This, however, Mr Jovic refuses to do.

Drugs testing 'used to bolster hard currency'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HAMBURG

FORMER East Germany made millions in hard currency through human testing of new drugs for Western and other foreign pharmaceutical companies, a leading news magazine reported yesterday.

The Hamburg-based magazine Der Spiegel said East German laws allowed doctors conducting the tests of new drugs to proceed only with patients' oral approval, when at all.

Western German law requires that patients on which new medicines are tested sign a written statement of understanding.

A spokesman for the German pharmaceutical industry, commenting on the report in a ZDF television interview yesterday, said all patients were "thoroughly informed" about possible side-effects.

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

By Our Foreign Staff

FROM TOM GIBB IN SAN SALVADOR

The killings happened days after the Bush administration announced it was releasing \$42.5 million (£21.5 million) of military aid to El Salvador which was frozen by Congress last year in protest at army human-rights abuses.



By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING
AND MICHAEL KNIFE IN LONDON

These trials were the most visible stage of the Chinese government's repression since the crushing of the Tiananmen Square protests.

In recent trials, Ren Wanding, the veteran human-rights activist, was given a seven-year sentence and Wang Dan, the student leader, received a four-year sentence. Although Mr Wang's trial was closed to foreign observers, according to the official *Peking Review*, he confessed to all the charges. Other dissidents have been jailed for between two and five years.

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FIAT
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As the coalition powers bombard Iraq to soften it up for a ground assault, Soviet black-beret specialists in violence are softening up the Baltic republics before moving in to destroy their nascent democracies. It would be convenient if these two conflicts could be viewed separately, but unfortunately they cannot.

The war in the Gulf was undertaken with near-unanimity by the United Nations as the first act of the "new world order" arising from the ruins of the cold war. Soviet support ensured that western forces could be deployed and if necessary used in the Middle East without provoking the kind of superpower confrontation that military analysts always feared might trigger a nuclear holocaust. The *détente* in Europe meant that units in Germany and Britain could be moved to the Gulf without concern for western security, and the Soviet propaganda machine did not mount an anti-western campaign in the Third World. Without this Soviet acquiescence President Bush would probably not have moved with such assurance from confront-

Michael Howard considers how to persuade the Soviet Union to liberate the Baltic states

Freedom without provocation

tion to sanctions and from sanctions to war.

But already last summer the new *détente* was under strain. The peoples of the Baltic republics began to demand that the Soviet Union, having peacefully abandoned its hegemony in Eastern Europe, should accord them independence as well. To the West this seemed a natural extension of freedom to nations which had already once enjoyed an independent existence. In Moscow, where those two decades of independence appeared a temporary anomaly after centuries of Russian rule, it presaged disintegration of the union. Perestroika must have some limits. Gorbachev tried to reason with the Baltic leaders, and then, reason having apparently failed, used force.

Western reactions were mixed. Conservatives in this country and

America thought Gorbachev, whom they had always mistrusted, was showing his true colours. No matter that he had peacefully withdrawn from Eastern Europe, acquiesced in German unification, initiated arms reductions and opened up the destiny of his country to public debate. Here he was at it again, suppressing peoples struggling to be free.

Others were less sure. To them, Gorbachev was a tragic figure rather than an evil figure, one who, with the best possible intentions, had set in train processes he was unable to control. Given his predicament, could we have expected him to have behaved differently? And is there anyone in sight who might be expected to do any better?

There is nothing new about this Western dilemma. For nearly two hundred years western liberals

have supported the strivings of the peoples of eastern Europe to free themselves from alien domination. Gladstone's Midlothian philippics in support of the Bulgarians in 1876 still thunder down the years. But western governments, those coldest of Nietzschean cold monsters, have always had their doubts.

Was it wise to weaken the Ottoman Empire and so bring Russian power to the Danubius? Was it wise to antagonise the Russians when we needed their strength against the menacing power of Germany? Was it wise to break up the Habsburg Monarchy and create a congeries of weak successor states at the mercy of their powerful neighbours? Was it, above all, wise to run the risk of nuclear war? We have, alas, been here before all too often.

Where do the interests of the

cold monsters lie now? The best scenario, clearly, is a Soviet Union maintaining amicable relations with the West, pressing on with arms reductions, continuing to co-operate in the Gulf, gradually solving its economic difficulties and evolving into a commonwealth of self-governing communities at peace with each other and with the outside world.

The worst is a return, not necessarily to Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism, but to a xenophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-western, authoritarian regime, suppressing such liberties as have been won over the past five years, abandoning its agreements in Europe and renewing its support for Saddam Hussein. The first possibility seems remote, the second, unfortunately, less so.

It is not enough therefore to say *fiat justitia ruat cælum*, that the

Baltic republics must be supported in their fight for immediate independence regardless of cost. The problem is how, by using economic pressures, to provide maximum support without provoking a backlash that would end their hopes of independence for a decade or more and destroy the basis of East-West agreement that has so far kept the Gulf conflict reasonably localised.

This involves being cold and monstrous about Gorbachev himself. Has he come to the end of his usefulness? If so, who would be more useful? If not, how can we strengthen his hand for the things he ought to do and restrain him from those he ought not to do?

Clearly he must be made to realise that the Baltic republics can be suppressed only at the cost of destroying friendly relations with the West, and here the growth of

economic linkage with the Soviet Union has given us a powerful bargaining counter. But then the historic dilemmas reappear. What are the costs to us of destroying the new relationship with Moscow? Does it matter if the consensus at the United Nations disintegrates and the war in the Gulf relapses into an Anglo-American punitive expedition for the protection of our oil interests? Does it matter if our rusting but still effective Soviet propaganda machine again starts to stir up trouble throughout the Third World? Does it matter if the demobilisation of Nato has to be thrown into reverse?

The answer is, yes it does matter, but so do the rights of the Baltic peoples. Most of us would probably and properly give these priority. But they will not come free, and it is important to keep the costs down. It will continue to be the unpopular but necessary task of the Foreign Office not to pursue absolutes, but to tease out of a complex and tragic situation the solution, however imperfect, that best suits the interests of Britain and its allies in the war.

Sir Michael Howard is professor of modern history at Yale University.

David Miller

Games on an uneven field

The Olympic Games in Barcelona next year are expected to bring commercial benefit to the city, in tourism and development, to the tune of £500 million. The games budget of £650 million has cost the taxpayer nothing and will provide permanent sports facilities for the population. The boost to Catalan morale is inestimable.

In 1988, the Seoul Olympic Games made a profit of £250 million, and transformed South Korean political and trade relations, particularly with communist countries. In 1984, the Los Angeles games made a similar profit. It is no surprise that cities have scrambled for the opportunity to enter the bidding: seven for 1992 (won by Barcelona), six for 1996 (awarded last year to Atlanta). The candidates for 2000 may include Peking, Sydney, Berlin, Milan, Rio and Istanbul. And perhaps London or Manchester.

There is, strangely, a divide within British sport over whether Britain should continue bidding in the wake of the earlier failures by Birmingham and Manchester. Two rival London bids were last night locked in debate, attempting to find a formula for amalgamation in order to rival Manchester when the British Olympic Association makes a choice in April.

The American and British governments are alone in the world in considering that they should provide no financial subsidy for the stadiums, swimming pools and roads that improve the staging of important international sports events. In America, what seems to be short-sightedness in the light of all the tangential benefits is offset by the tax concessions for corporate sponsorship of sport. Yet in Britain, sport — even the fund raised for an Olympic team — is still taxed.

Last autumn, on the morning before Atlanta was chosen as host for the 1996 Games, each of the 87 members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) present in Tokyo received a personally signed letter from President Bush. Mrs Thatcher sent Chris Patten, who was astonished by the power game he witnessed and could contribute little of significance to Manchester's presentation.

Although Manchester was eliminated in the second ballot, the confidence within its campaign committee is such that they unhesitatingly sought the British nomination to run again for 2000. The vote is to be taken in 1993. The Manchester bid was seen by the IOC last time as highly credible, but failed to sustain its 11 first-round votes because most European members considered their support should go to Athens, original hosts in 1896.

There are those who argue that Britain is wasting time and money on a contest in which other candidates have vast government backing; that the IOC electorate has questionable scruples; and that the only bid with a chance would be London. These arguments are unsound.

Money spent on the election campaign is new money that would not otherwise be available for sport, for it is provided by the private sector. It also brings valuable publicity, win or lose, to the city. Manchester International Airport yesterday donated £250,000 to the new campaign, calculating that the previous bid radically improved the overseas perception of Manchester. (Birmingham experienced a similar commercial boost after its bid.) National sports federations think the campaign beneficial for regional development of sport.

Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall in London, should not have said in a radio interview yesterday that Britain's bid must be "London or nothing". As a potential Labour sports minister she may in future be supporting a Manchester nomination. Signs of disunity may undermine any presentation to the IOC.

There is no doubt that the capital would be at an advantage in the voting over any provincial British city. But London hosted the 1908 and 1948 games, and it is perhaps unlikely that the IOC would choose the capital a third time — and whether such a congested city could accommodate a new Olympic village within a radius acceptable to the IOC. Sebastian Coe, who is leading the London 2000 bid, believes it is possible. The British Olympic Association has to decide.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

I'm glad I ran into Roland White. Had I not done so, it could have cost me £300 million. That is the kind of money Roland has promised, provided things go well. Even if things go only moderately well, I shall get £49 million. Of course, nothing is ever certain in the mutable world of the megabuck, and it could be that things will not go nearly as well as that, and I shall end up with little more than £2 million, but even so, I shan't complain. I shall still be in a position to pick Roland up in my new scarlet Testarossa, whisk him round to the Cavendish for a slap-up table d'hôte with all the trimmings, and, over the prunes and custard, gratefully slip him the platinum Rolex which will be nothing less than his due. I shall then drop him back at 66 High Holborn and pop down to Monte for a month or two.

You will have heard of Roland White, if you're a small print buff, just as you will know what goes on at 66 High Holborn. It is the Patent Office. It says so in the coupon you have to cut out of the newspaper if you want the £300 million — or, more precisely, the £603 million to which it roughly equates — in the text above the coupon. I do not know why the Patent Office is currently running these advertisements in the national prints, but it is probably a bi-polar result of the economic downturn, with not only the PO down on its luck but also the sudden availability of potential customers for its services, as large numbers of clever citizens turn

up at their offices to find that the Official Receiver has changed all the locks. With time suddenly on their hands and nowhere to turn for the wherewithal to keep the wolf from the yacht, a quick £603 million can begin to look quite tasty. Even £2,340,776 is better than a poke in the eye with a sharp ledger.

Of course, they will have to invent something first. As the ad tells us, the £603 million was what the inventor made on the Polaroid camera, the £49 million rewarded the genius behind the ring-pull can, and the £2,340,776 went to the chap who invented the cat's eye, presumably so that he could find his way to his bank in the dark. But the ad has another inventor for us, too: Edwin Armstrong, who came up with the FM radio. It made him £0.00, because he did not patent it. The purpose of the ad is thus to steer us away from the haplessness of poor Edwin, and towards 66 High Holborn and everyone's mutual benefit.

God bless you, Roland White. While I should not dream of speculating on whether your forbears decided to snub up White with an a or a Wait with an i, I can tell you that, in my own case, invention is my middle name. You wouldn't believe the stuff I have come up with over the years, yet, until your offer, have never thought of turning it to fat profit. Take the tap-cork. Since the dawn of plumbing, man has been plagued by the dripping faucet — except in our house. Here, a cunningly-crafted wedge

of ordinary bottle-cork is used to poke up any dripping spout after the user has finished washing. When he wishes to wash again, the tap-cork can be reasonably quickly removed, sometimes with no sweating at all. Costing little to manufacture in bulk, it could retail at a very reasonable £1.95. The brick-on-a-rope, mind, would be slightly more expensive, though £3.95 doesn't seem too much to pay for a means of re-directing a TV aerial without leaning more than a few feet out of an upper window, especially given the bonus of being able to identify which are, or were, the looser roof-tilers. I have not yet set a price for the Crickeewood Angelpiece Magnet — which, affixed to a capriciously deteriorated desk-lamp, enables the user to stop it suddenly rearing up — since I do not know the going price of the miniature Christmas-cracker dog you have to winkle the magnet out of first, but once it is in manufacture and has CAM® stamped on it, £2.25 sounds about right. Often, my inventions have been no more than a brilliant gloss on someone's else's duller original: did you know, for example, that simply by ignoring the instructions when fitting a spy-hole, you can enable visitors to see whom they've called on, without revealing their own identity? Do not dream, by the way, of nicking these little money-spinners. My list has already gone to Roland. Your benefit will consist entirely of not having to read this column any more. I shan't be filing from Tahiti.

Saddam Hussein said it first: the Saudi Arabians should be ashamed. Not only are they letting the American infidel fight their battles, but the infidel has brought his wife. The idea of weak women defending a great, masculine-orientated nation has Saddam apoplectic with disgust; and it still shocks sections of the more accustomed British and American public.

The fears for women soldiers in the Gulf were brought home last week when one female marine and her male colleague disappeared while driving a jeep near the Saudi border with Kuwait and Iraq. The Iraqis also claimed, without allied confirmation, that some women marines were captured during the battle for the town of Khafji.

The numbers do not matter. One woman prisoner of war is enough to test the public's stomach, particularly if she is eventually paraded on television in an Iraqi propaganda show. And if one woman — or worse, one mother — comes home in a body bag, many will declare that women should not be warriors.

This body of opinion is already up and running; in leader columns, in speeches and on the streets. There are worries that women prisoners of war may be raped; that when things get tough they will not have the strength or stamina; that they do not have a killer instinct. Would we send out an army of undersized, weak men to fight strapping giants? No. Why then are women being employed as soldiers? Surely they reduce battle efficiency?

Then there is the second line of attack. How can those soldier mothers leave tiny babies crying in someone else's arms? What about their poor husbands? Will it not all end in divorce? It goes against the natural order of things.

Such arguments have an instinctive emotional appeal, but they are only plausible because the army in people's minds is that of the second world war, and the image of women helping is that of a munitions worker on the home front. The first two weeks of the Gulf conflict have made it clear that trench-and-gun warfare makes up only a small part of the fighting in the modern, automated battlefield.

The fact is that western armies need women. They form 11 per cent of the United States army and their presence is a matter not of

Kate Muir argues that women soldiers should be as well prepared for active service as men



Necessary presence: a woman soldier prepares to face her role in the Gulf conflict

choice, but of necessity. After the draft ended in America, the quality of male volunteers fell, and although direct-entry officers remain of a high standard, the low pay and high demands of army life, compared with civilian work, mean that enlisted men come largely from the less-educated, poorer parts of the community. The quality of female recruits remains high, however. A United States army survey showed that 37 per cent more enlisted women had high school diplomas, they were generally more mature, and scored 22 per cent more on average than men in standardised military tests. The falling number of school-leavers means the military, like civilian businesses, must look

more to women. Unexpectedly, women are no worse a training investment than men, for although the initial dropout rate in the United States army is slightly higher, the losses of women soldiers through pregnancy are comparable with the losses of men due to alcohol or drug misuse, or to misconduct. Armies who want quality soldiers at a reasonable cost in the future have the choice of bringing back the draft or bringing in more women.

The military can no longer be quite so choosy. The days of height restrictions are ending — the Royal Navy now only requires male recruits to be a minimum of 5ft, and on parade days the line wavers up and down. Some Asian

men entering are little taller than many women, yet their capabilities are not questioned.

Admittedly, a man is on average 30 per cent stronger than a woman of the same height, particularly in the upper body. In terms of stamina, differences are marginal, marathon runners being a good example. Obviously, there are certain jobs, such as loading heavy ammunition and carrying weights over long distances, that women will never do as well as men. They will always be at a disadvantage in hand-to-hand combat with an all-male army. But such tasks make up less than 20 per cent of army work, and women who are too small can be useful outside infantry or tank regiments.

Not Lord's; try Stamford Bridge

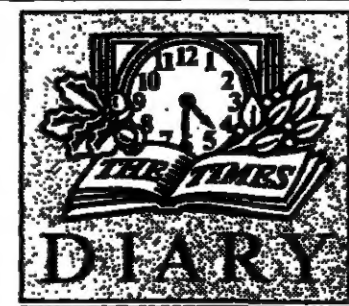
John Major, Britain's best known cricket fan, will not be sitting in the member's pavilion at Lord's this summer to see if England can salvage some cricketing pride against the West Indies. He will have to wait almost 20 more years before the MCC, the game's most prestigious club and owner of Lord's, will admit him to membership.

The prime minister, who sent a personal message to the England team in Australia telling them that a Test win would do wonders for the morale of troops in the Gulf, has been on the waiting-list since 1989, but Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, the club's secretary, says he will have to queue until some time around 2009. This news will be a blow to a man so keen on cricket that his friends joke that he wanted the Downing Street job only to gain admission to the Lord's Long Room.

Membership of the club is restricted to 20,000 because of the limited capacity in the pavilion,



and as the overwhelming majority remain members for life, new generations have to wait for older fans to die. As members are living longer, the waiting list has now grown to about 20 years. Queue



jumping is restricted to applicants whose cricketing talents can improve the quality of the various MCC club and ground sides, a route closed to Major, whose promising cricket career was shattered, along with his leg, in an accident. "We do have provision for electing applicants out of turn in the interests of the club, but becoming prime minister does not make membership automatic," says Stephenson.

But Punch magazine has found at least one organisation sporting enough to accept the prime minister at once. "John Major would be welcome," says the Chelsea Supporters Club. "Anyone can join. Just send us £30 plus four photos and we'll send a membership card."

Minimal Maxs

The Gulf war has taken its toll on the Tate Gallery's exhibition to mark the centenary of Max Ernst, which opens next week. Half of the anticipated 200 paintings from collections all over the world failed to make the Tate, January 25 delivery deadline. At this late stage, although late arrivals have filled many of the gaps, the gallery's head of exhibitions, Ruth Rattenbury, is braced for up to a dozen gaps in the show.

Some delays have been caused because American owners of works by the German-born surrealist were unable to find space

on cargo flights due to the number of planes requisitioned by the Pentagon. Art owners in Italy, Germany and Switzerland have withdrawn promised works because of security fears. Two paintings due from Israel will not be travelling because the Office of Arts and Libraries has declined to extend war risk indemnity. The Tate sought outside cover but found premiums prohibitive.

"The situation would have appealed to Ernst," says Rattenbury. "It's positively surreal."

● The revelation last week about the Spanish airline that serves French wine bottled in Manchester has touched a raw nerve at the Spanish embassy in London. "The airline purchased an independent carrier and with it acquired a warehouse full of this wine," writes the commercial section. "They assure us they are trying to get rid of it as quickly as possible."

Vision of abroad

A suggestion that the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family are behaving unpatriotically by snubbing British publishers has drawn a swift rebuke from Giles Gordon, literary agent to the royals. "Virtually the entire oeuvre of recent royal outpourings is being published by non-British publishers," says *The Bookseller* — and, it must be admitted, the evidence is considerable. A collection of watercolours by the Prince of Wales will appear later this year from the American firm of Little, Brown; the Duchess of York's *Budgie* books are published by the American Simon & Schuster; and Doubleday, which published the prince's architectural manifesto *A Vision of Britain*, is owned by Bertelsmann of Germany.

But says Gordon, the fault lies with the failure of British publishers to come up with creative ideas. "The answer is simple," he says,

"Little, Brown is anxious to establish itself in Britain and wrote from Boston suggesting an idea that the Prince of Wales liked. It was the same with Doubleday. There is no question of the Royal family being unpatriotic."

Gordon is adamant that British companies would receive a similarly favourable response from the royals if they came up with ideas for books which would raise large sums of money for charity. "But there is another important factor," he concedes. "It has to be said that the American companies are able to offer more money."

Ho Ho, no joke

After all the streets and tower blocks named by London Labour councils after Nelson Mandela, Marcus Garvey and their ilk, what price a Ho Chi Minh monument? The proposal, however, comes not from the loony left, but from Lady Porter's true-blue Westminster council. His name appears on a long list of famous one-time London residents proposed for commemorative plaques to foster tourism.

The late North Vietnamese communist leader once worked at the long-demolished Carlton Hotel, now the site of New Zealand House, and a demonstrator's stone's throw away from Trafalgar Square, where the 1960s reverberated to the "Ho Ho Ho Chi Minh" chants of anti-war protesters. Nobody by the way, appears to have asked the New Zealanders what they think of having a memorial to Ho on their walls.

Equally controversial is the suggestion for a plaque to Oswald Mosley in Dolphin Square. The proposals go before a council committee for approval next month and a row looks unavoidable. Lady Porter reacted quickly when told of them. "Both should be rejected, on the grounds that no fascists of the right or left should be honoured in this scheme."



BOMBING IRAQ

Since the start of the allied offensive in the Gulf, the brevity and efficiency of the land war has been said to depend on the length and intensity of the air war. The military success of the air war depends on the precision of bombing. Its political success depends on that precision being widely appreciated. Public opinion, both in the Arab states and among the allied democracies, will not tolerate heavy casualties among Iraq's civilians. The tension between military and political objectives lies at the heart of any war, and especially one that is geographically limited in action but widespread in its implications.

Allied military commanders are adhering to a simple requirement. They are unwilling to order their ground troops into Kuwait against a much bigger army until they have destroyed as much as possible of Iraq's military capability. They also hope that such destruction might even precipitate a surrender or coup. Targets cannot be confined to ammunition and fuel dumps, defences, armour and troop concentrations inside Kuwait. General Colin Powell's "cut off and kill" strategy depends on severing supply lines from Iraq and attacking not only military but certain economic targets, such as refineries, stores, roads and bridges in Iraq.

This is being achieved with a weight of ordinance unprecedented since 1945. So much is clear. Equally clear is that every house or clinic or school suffering "collateral damage due to weapon malfunction" is not just a tactical defeat but a human tragedy. In this most political of wars, the destruction of Iraq's war machine cannot even appear to be turning into a total war against Iraq. President Saddam Hussein will extract all the propaganda he can from civilian damage and has invited foreign journalists, including this newspaper's correspondent, back to Iraq with that purpose. The allies' best defence is to fight a demonstrably clean war.

Air supremacy — which means that air forces can pick targets at will — has an unfortunately complacent ring. Command of the air lays on the allies a special duty to delineate targets precisely, weigh the military value of each sortie against the risk to civilians as well as airtowns, and explain the

outcome as clearly as security permits. Commanders are clearly justified in attacking the main supply routes from Iraq to Kuwait by the need to shorten the land war. The case for attacking the Republican Guard headquarters in Basra is equally clear. The B52 raids from British soil are against strictly military targets. But what of the road between Jordan and Baghdad, densely used by Jordanian truck drivers and refugees? If the aim is to kill anything resembling a Scud, then the political damage of innocent deaths must be set against the (small) chance of a Scud transport using that road.

Iraq has provided no estimate of civilian casualties, censors news reports and controls the movement of foreign journalists. Saddam has also made the bombers' task difficult by using military installations in his cities. But reports from Iraq are becoming progressively harder to dismiss as mere propaganda or the relics of the Iran-Iraq war.

"Any temptation to widen target areas must be resisted. The second world war began with RAF bombers returning loaded if they failed to find their targets. It ended with the horrific "strategic" carpet bombing of civilians. Some civilian destruction round economic targets is unavoidable, with the hope that human casualties can be minimised by air-raid precautions. Modern targeting has also vastly improved the precision of bombs, while the defences of modern aircraft against missiles and anti-aircraft fire have helped pilots to concentrate on accuracy. But for spokesmen to describe civilian deaths as "collateral damage" is crass and politically inept. Some briefings almost sound like reports of weapons tests.

The accuracy of allied bombing remains the best guarantee of a short and merciful war. It is also the guarantee of a politically astute one. Saddam may fight dirty; the Scuds rained on cities could be followed by chemical warfare. He may be widely detested by many Arabs; but they still regard every Iraqi civilian as kin. Every Iraqi civilian killed is a bloodstained feather in Saddam's cap, for him to wave at his supporters throughout the Middle East. The war must be fought with the most meticulous regard for human life.

SICK AS A LORD

When a new law is opposed by the actions of the CBI and the TUC, the National Farmers' Union, the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and the Low Pay Unit, there must be something in its favour. This coalition of vested interests has opposed the government's amendments to its sick pay scheme, to be debated in the Commons today.

The government wants to transfer some of the burden of sick pay from the state to employers. The latter naturally prefer that the national insurance scheme continue to pick up the bill. The House of Lords has accepted their arguments and wrecked the bill. The government is now casting about for a way of buying off its critics, and enabling its proposals to survive.

Ministers are largely to blame for their problems. The bill had its origins in last autumn's public expenditure round. A gap remained between the minimum the social security department wanted to spend, and the maximum the Treasury would allow. The sick pay proposals that led to the present bill were produced like a rabbit from the hat to balance the accounts. Previously, the maximum rate of statutory sick pay was updated annually, with employers able to reclaim from the government all they paid out to sick workers. The government planned to reduce this to 80 per cent, saving £280 million a year.

The resulting harmony between the social security ministers and the Treasury was bought at the cost of an outcry from lobbyists. Some complained that the pro-

posals would cost their members money. Others said that if employers had to bear part of the cost, they would simply ignore their statutory obligation to pay sick pay at all. Their complaints increased when just three weeks were allowed between the publication of the proposals and the bill clearing the Commons before Christmas. This haste stirred their lordships to call a halt.

Had the changes been introduced in a more orderly fashion, they would have incurred less odium. The arguments in their favour are powerful. Statutory sick pay is fast becoming an anachronism. Nine out of ten employees are now covered by company schemes; most of them more generous than the state's. This is to be encouraged. And for the state to bear the whole cost of sickness creates the wrong incentives.

Sickness is not an objective state from which, once certified by a doctor, the employee can be assumed to be suffering. Within bounds, workers can choose whether they are well enough to work. The employer can do much to discourage sick leave, both by checking up on the bona fides of absentees and by making work a more attractive place to be. With 30 times more days lost through sickness than through strikes, sickness management is vital to industrial efficiency. Managers should pay at least part of the cost from their pockets.

Ministers may today offer concessions to small firms, who can be hard hit by protracted and unexpected illness. Assuming they do so, the Commons should reverse the Lords' amendments, and the Lords should give in with good grace.

ANY WAY UP WILL DO

Modern art, so called, has long been something of a joke with the public. So the news that the Royal College of Art has at last decided to teach its students to "draw" will be the subject of ribald humour. But anger and pity would be in order as well as laughter: anger at the arrogance of the elite of teachers and critics towards the traditional skills of fine art, pity for the students who were so badly taught as a result.

A generation has graduated from Britain's leading art schools convinced by fashion that they were artists. Many have made a living out of it by suckering wealthy picture-buyers into acquiring pictures few now believe will keep their value. It became a matter of pride among fine art students from the 1960s onwards to despise the primary skill of drawing, traditionally taught by "life classes" of natural and human forms.

At last the students have demanded to be taught how to draw, two decades after David Hockney harangued the college for omitting to do so. So far the classes have attracted more interest from students on the vocational courses than those who are training to be "pure" artists. But even among the latter, the Modernist contempt for representational art is giving way to eclecticism, borrowing from diverse skills, styles and periods.

To some, all abstract and conceptual art is mere rubbish: without technique it is nothing but crude expression. Others, as Tom Wolfe has described, were intimidated to think that their total bafflement in the presence of such works was a measure of their own intellectual and aesthetic poverty. If a picture or sculpture changed hands for four or five figures then there must be something in it — even if it appeared to

matter not at all which way up it was hung. As W. S. Gilbert said, this was evidence of its artistic "depthness".

The doctrine of Modernism held that a work of art should not refer outside itself for its meaning. It denoted nothing in the natural world and merely produced certain feelings in the mind of its creator. To draw "from life" was thus anathema as it involved external reference. Behind this aesthetic nihilism lay a philosophical rejection not just of history and geography but of the natural world itself.

No other aspect of the postwar epoch — some would say of the prewar European epoch as well — has proved so depressing or so difficult to escape. The Modernist spirit has corrupted music, architecture and poetry as well as art and sculpture.

If life could be dismissed as meaningless and the obligations and commitments of social behaviour denied, there was no point in copying any of it onto canvas. Brutalist architecture, expressionist poetry, and "concrete" music were all harnessed to express an orderless and chaotic world and absolve the artist from any part in it. Sketch pad and pencil went the same way as harmony and melody, mere instruments of bourgeois entertainment. Only spontaneous imagination, free from all formal restraint (except that of getting a government subsidy), was worthy of the creative artist.

From this barrenness, the 1990s are already offering deliverance. Architects are once again designing classical orders. Post-Modern composers are rediscovering tunes. And the RCA is to breathe life once again into the sublime skill of drawing. Modernism is at last old-fashioned.

Civilians trapped in the conflict

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, Like the House of Bishops of the Church of England, I believe that we had no choice but to take arms against Saddam Hussein. I have no doubt that his defeat is essential if there is to be a hope of peace in the Middle East, and ultimately if a greater and infinitely more devastating conflict is to be avoided. I recognise that even laser-guided bombs will sometimes go astray and sadly cause civilian casualties, however much our forces do their utmost to avoid this.

But I am sure many Christians (and others) will share my grave concern at the TV pictures of wounded children and distraught parents in Baghdad. We are not at war with the Iraqi people and it has been notable in the days since the war erupted that no one expresses any hostility towards them. If cruise and other missiles are so easily shot down that they are likely to fall on homes, schools and other civilian areas, then their use must be discontinued and another way found.

With the sophisticated weaponry of 1991, a Dracian — even on a minor scale — is not an option and will not be exercised.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York,
February 2.

From Squadron Leader J. P. E. Peters (ret)

Sir, My dream is that some generous airline will give me 1,000 free tickets to Kuwait City so that I can go among the "peace marchers" and invite them to travel to Kuwait so they can explain to the citizens of that country why it is wrong for the allied coalition to fight to free their country.

I might add that my wife, a native of these islands, knows only too well what it is like to have one's homeland occupied by the enemy. She also lacks sympathy for these supporters of evil.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PETERS,
Le Petit Mont Val,
Rue du Bordage,
St Pierre-du-Bois,
Gournay, CI,
February 3.

Gulf aspects

From Captain Sally E. Heath, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Sir, As there appears to be some interest in married couples working together out here in the Gulf, I thought you might like to know about my family with 33 General Hospital in eastern Saudi Arabia. I was a reservist who volunteered to be with my husband. My husband, his brother and my sister-in-law are all here. Does four people from one family serving together become a record? Thankfully life is very quiet at the moment.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY E. HEATH,
33 General Hospital, BFPO 637,
January 28.

From Mr Joshua Rowe

Sir, A fair way to deal with any widespread destruction of the Kuwait oil fields would be for the allies, when they have ejected Iraq from

Cut and thrust on the media front

From Mr H. J. Baker

Sir, In time of peace it is a proper and essential role of the information media sensibly to question, challenge and treat with due scepticism the pronouncements and actions of a democratically-elected government.

The successful prosecution by a democracy of a major war requires total commitment of the population as a whole. This entails the manipulation of news and information in order to support the morale of our side and to confuse the enemy.

It is no part of the duty of the information media to frustrate this process by harrying ministers and their armed forces subordinates in order to attempt to establish (probably vainly) what they believe to be the impartial truth. In doing so journalists set themselves above the interest of their compatriots and risk giving help and comfort to the enemy.

This simple view has its obvious dangers; but war is a dangerous business. In a democracy the elected government should account to the electorate for its actions after hostilities have ended not to the detriment of the nation's aims, as the war is in progress.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. BAKER,
8 Grovelands, Lower Bourne,
Farnham, Surrey,
February 2.

From Mr J. E. Martin

Sir, Nobody who heard Peter Snow's interview on BBC's *Newsnight* of Colonel Gaddafi on January 25 can be in any doubt as to the damage to the allied cause in the Gulf which is being wreaked by the anti-war processions and demonstrations.

Gaddafi cited these as evidence that America and Britain were no longer democracies, and that the war was being waged by their governments in direct opposition to the wishes of their people.

This, I believe, a widely held Arab view, and must give great comfort to Saddam Hussein, and great encouragement to him to persevere in the conflict. It is, I fear, too much to hope that our peace campaigners will forgo their cherished marches, chants and banners, but I only wish they would understand that by continuing them they

are actively helping to prolong this unhappy war.

They will bear a heavy responsibility for the death and maiming of we know not how many young men on both sides of the conflict, and for the lasting grief and desolation of their unhappy families.

Yours very truly,
J. E. MARTIN,
49 Redemere Drive,
Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

From Mr Denis Young

Sir, Whenever a TV interview of someone in the Gulf who is not near the top of the command structure is conducted from a news studio in London and sent out live, we can I think exclude the possibility of it being disinformation. If Gulf HQ says or implies one thing and one of these interviews indicates the opposite, it is clear to me, and to Saddam Hussein, which of them is likely to be deliberate military deception. Such live interviews should surely come under better control.

Eleven days ago I wrote to the authorities and one passage from the letter went as follows: "David Dimbleby asked an allied colonel, whose precise location within a few miles of the Kuwait border was given, 'What is the disposition of your troops?' The colonel did not give away anything, but as the interview was going out live, what he might have said could not have been blocked out. A little earlier we were told that his troops were not anywhere near him."

Whatever lip-service the broadcaster may pay to security, the fact is that the colonel's named location was Khatif.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS YOUNG,
The Old Manse, Glenlyon,
Aberfeldy, Perthshire,
February 1.

From Miss Anne Scott-James

Sir, We are told that Saddam Hussein lacks sophisticated means of reconnaissance. With all the useful information being provided for him by our TV, radio and press, not to mention senior allied commanders and other servicemen, he scarcely needs them.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE SCOTT-JAMES,
78 Cheyne Court,
Royal Hospital Road, SW3,
February 1.

convinced them of the necessity of pacifism.

It may be added that present-day soldiers who have come to the same conclusion are approaching us, as well as reservists liable for call-up.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM HETHERINGTON,
Peace Pledge Union,
Dick Sheppard House,
6 Euston Square, WCI.

From Mr Philip Keeler

Sir, Let us, please, not use the term "body bags" when referring to the repatriation of members of the allied forces killed in action.

However unintentional, it implies lack of respect for the remains of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, and must be distressing to those who mourn them.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP KEELER,
47 Yew Tree Bottom Road,
Epsom Downs, Surrey,
January 31.

was pointed out that this was before Ms Short was an MP. She has stated that she did not know of these convictions and we never alleged that she did. During the period that she was in her house he used three different names. Later he was shot dead — in a gangland feud believed to be linked to a previous murder a year earlier.

These facts about an MP and former Labour front bench spokeswoman, who has made a public stance on many occasions concerning the police, I believe are proper matters for investigation by a free press.

One matter we had wrong was that Ms Short's husband, Alex Lyon, had cancer, when in fact he has incurable spinal atrophy. For this I apologise and extend my sympathies. We have made it clear that we will give all co-operation to the investigation by the Press Complaints Commission and expect to abide by its adjudication.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA CHAPMAN,
Editor, *News of the World*,
Virginia Street, EL,
February 1.

Our story regarding Ms Short was not about nighties, or her early love life. It was about the fact that a close friend had previous convictions for fraud, living off prostitutes, possessing hemp, wounding and theft. It

from the Government and people in Adur deserve only £76.

For that matter, it is fair that Westminster residents receive nearly £1,000 government grant per head? This system is so fundamentally flawed that county council talk of standard spending assessments and overspending is meaningless. It may be that Michael Heseltine's financial review will ask serious questions about the future of the two-tier structure and the elimination of this nonsense.

It would have been more constructive had councillors Sheridan and Elliott addressed this wider issue so as to assist in the national debate, which would have been of more positive benefit to the community which may council is committed to continue to serve.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN KING,
(Leader, Adur District Council),
Civic Centre, Ham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex,
February 4.

Legal curbs on right to know

From Mr J. Stanley Heath

Sir, "Judgments without the facts" was the headline under which you introduced the essay written by Mr Christopher Whitty, a medical student, in answer to the question "Should the law ever restrict the right to know?" (Law, January 29). May I point out that no court can reach a correct judgment without knowing all the relevant facts; and it is for precisely that reason that the law should not restrict the right to know them.

Lord Donaldson (as he now is) said in *Davies v. Eli Lilly & Co.*

Let me emphasise that the plaintiff's right to discovery of all relevant documents, failing all just exceptions, is not in issue. The right (my italics) is peculiar to the common law jurisdictions. In plain language, litigation in this country is conducted "cards face-up on the table". It is designed to do real justice between opposing parties and, if the court does not have all [the judge's italics] the relevant information, it cannot achieve this object.

That was the *Open* case. One has only to go back to the *Distillers* case, or the one in which an attempt was made to cover up the fact that a soldier in the Falklands had been killed by fire from one of our own naval vessels, or the attempt in a medical negligence case not to disclose the theatre records, to see how vital to the outcome is a full knowledge of the facts.

No, Sir, the right to know is not a fiction — and it is confined neither to people who have a profound interest in getting information more easily, nor to the paranoid. I suggest, with respect, that Mr Whitty should stick to his own last.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY HEATH,
Stanley Heath & Co. (solicitors),
58a Church Street,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,
January 29.

From Dr P. Joan Bishop

Sir, I congratulate Christopher Whitty on his prize-winning essay and I entirely agree, in theory at least, with the views he expressed.

In practice, however, case histories are anything but confidential. Hospital folders pass through many departments and are handled by students, paramedicals, secretaries, typists, filing clerks, receptionists and possibly other less authorized persons.

Having been a patient myself, I could sympathise with the patient who complained to me that everyone in the hospital was entitled to read his notes except himself.

In fighting any move to change the law towards permitting patients access to their case notes, Mr Whitty must be prepared to deal with this anomaly.

I am, yours faithfully,
P. J. BISHOP,
Tappetts, Wilmington, East Sussex,
January 30.

Helping the homeless

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, Robert Perrin (January 29), calls for a "bolder and more philosophical approach" to tackle homelessness in our big cities but his proposal merely translates into a squatter's camp in the middle of London.

It is wrong to perpetuate the myth that somehow people who are homeless are different from other people, requiring them to be lumped together in some communal unit — a hostel, a camp, a separate area.

Government money for extra hostel places is welcome, for there is a growing shortage of hostels, but the question should always be: "Why a hostel rather than a home of your own?" Sadly, this question is not being asked.

Homelessness — the result of too little affordable rented accommodation — was not perceived by the government as a problem until it became highly visible on our streets. It is no surprise that the government's strategy now should be first — clear up the streets, and second — provide hostel spaces.

Its long-term housing plans are still totally against a background of continuing under-investment causing the loss of a much larger number of hostel bedspaces.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA McKECHNIE, Director,
Shelter,
88 Old Street, EC1.

Role for engineers

From Mr Ron Kirby

Sir, In the debate on appointing engineers and scientists to non-executive directorships (Letters, January 26 and February 1) I should point out that the number of engineers running companies is on the increase. Our most recent survey shows that 9,500 of the UK-based 190,000 engineers and technicians on our register are chairmen, chief executives and managing directors.

Yours sincerely,
RON KIRBY,
(Director of Public Affairs),
The Engineering Council,
10 Maitland Street, WC2,
February 1.

Pole position

From Mr Neil Freeman

Sir, My village hall is advertising an "Indoor Car Boot Sale". Apart from the extraordinary vision that is conjured up, whatever happened to jumble sales?

Yours faithfully,
NEIL FREEMAN,
18 Redwood Drive, Wing,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
January 30.

Adur poll tax

From Mr Martin King

Sir, I was disappointed in the letter from County Councillors Sheridan and Elliott (February 1) on the subject of Adur District Council and the poll tax.

I am Elliott is a former leader of Adur council. I would have thought that both would be more aware of the degree of local discontent about Adur's resources and the unworkability of the two-tier local government financial structure.

No administration in Adur, whether Liberal Democrat or Tory, has succeeded in spending within government targets since they were introduced in the early 1980s. This is not surprising. Adur's target spending has always been unrealistically low and has increased by only 37 per cent in the last eight years — much less than inflation. West Sussex County Council's target will have gone up by 97 per cent over the same period. To date, had West

Sussex received Adur's meagre increase it would have overspent by £100 million.

County council services represent 80 per cent of Adur's poll tax next year, and they are proposing a £52 net increase. Adur's is a modest £12 increase (having lowered the proposed poll tax by £15 in a challenging exercise to reduce spending commitments). Of the £405 expected to be payable after April, £118 will go to West Sussex and only £77 to Adur.

Government grant per head in Adur is equally inequitable. If we received the same as neighbouring Hove, we could have put the poll tax down next year. One quarter of our population lives within a mile of Hove's boundary. I fail to see why Hove residents deserve £177 each

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Go-going back to the good old days

There is more than nostalgia behind the shift back to Sixties style, Liz Smith reports

The first of the new season's short shift dresses are arriving in the shops. Last summer's explosion of Pucci print and eye-popping colour shows little sign of slowing down. Hairdressers are relearning the skill of backcombing hair into tousled beehives and high chignons. Revivals of the Sixties? Right. And, in a way, wrong.

Fashion followers – and designers – seem to yearn for the security of proven successes. Fond reminiscences of the boom times of the Sixties are not lost on an industry facing a worldwide recession.

But it is not simple nostalgia for clean-cut chic that has propelled the Sixties look back into fashion. There were gauche-looking hot pants, white go-go boots and baby-doll dresses then, too, remember? And who ever looked chic in frayed flares or bell-bottoms? Their revival suggests a different cause. The wacky styles are an escape from the greyness of today. "A good time for little money" is the excuse that the New York designer Norma Kamali gave for her revival of bare midriffs and hip-hugging flares for this spring.

For anyone looking for an excuse to wear flares or a mini trapeze there is the Birthright Sixties Ball, being held at the Albert Hall next month.

Sixties fashion heroines who have become part of the iconography of the look – Audrey Hepburn, Babe Paley and Jacqueline Kennedy – all exuded that air of aloof elegance that makes even the most outrageously high hemline or outlandish colour look *plus chic*.

When Ivana Trump remodelled herself last year, she adopted the tousled Sixties beehive of Brigitte Bardot. At the Paris couture shows last July she looked cool and chic in an apricot silk sleeveless shift dress, by the New York designer Oscar de la Renta, with orange kid gloves. After his tiff with Inès de la Fressange, his star model at Chanel, Lagerfeld replaced her with the bosomy Bardot lookalike Claudia Schiffer. Flirtatious flick-ups and headscarves were seen on the catwalks at ready-to-wear shows for spring 1991.

The silhouette may be vintage,



Under the influence: Caroline Charles's 1991 sleeveless shift dress, left; Audrey Hepburn at her wedding in 1953, above

but it is being well reworked by designers everywhere. Tiny armholes are square-shaped or slope inwards to the neck. It was simply a matter of adjusting the proportions and sharpening the line of the shoulders for Bill Bliss and de

la Renta in New York to update the Camelot look. The flattering semi-fitted cut now skims out more gently from under the bust. Valentino in Rome chisels matt double-faced wool in ivory or fondant pink into a perfectly



proportioned dress and jacket with scalloped edges.

Mass-market designers today have high-technology fabrics to sculpt and mould Courtesie-style shifts, so that less-expensive Sixties styles look more polished the second time around. Lycra has revolutionised cut and cling.

"Do you remember that word 'bandbox'?" the designer Caroline Charles asks. "It is a young, smart and very cleaned-up look that

comes to mind. It's going to be amusing again to have a pair of white gloves and shiny pillbox hat, low-heeled square-toed shoes and pale stockings. In the Sixties it was for the young. Today it's far more sophisticated." Short shifts in black and white geometric prints, neat suits and dresses with jackets starred in the Charles collection for spring. Gleaming hair, dark glasses, a neat, boxy bag and white gloves are key accessories.

Lagerfeld (for Chanel) and Lizzy Bruce (with stretchy swim dresses) are among today's designers reviving the op-art geometry of blocks and bands of black and white. Edina Ronay uses satin-backed crepe (a very Sixties cloth) for a sleeveless shift (£252) and black and white linen for a boxy jacket (£310) and contrasting skirt (£99). Miss Selfridge stocks sleeveless shift dresses in black and white, plain in satin-backed crepe

Buzz from the past: a 1967 trapeze dress, above; Next's 1991 version of the look, far left, has clean lines and graphic punch; Ivana Trump, left, adopts the Brigitte Bardot beehive, below

(£27.99) or quartered in blocks of black and white heavy polyester (£34.99). Neat Sixties suits in pink or bright tangerine tweed are priced at £58.98 or in pastel tweed at £78.98. Next's black and white A-line dress with cut-away top (£42.99) relies on clean lines and graphic punch for much of its chic.

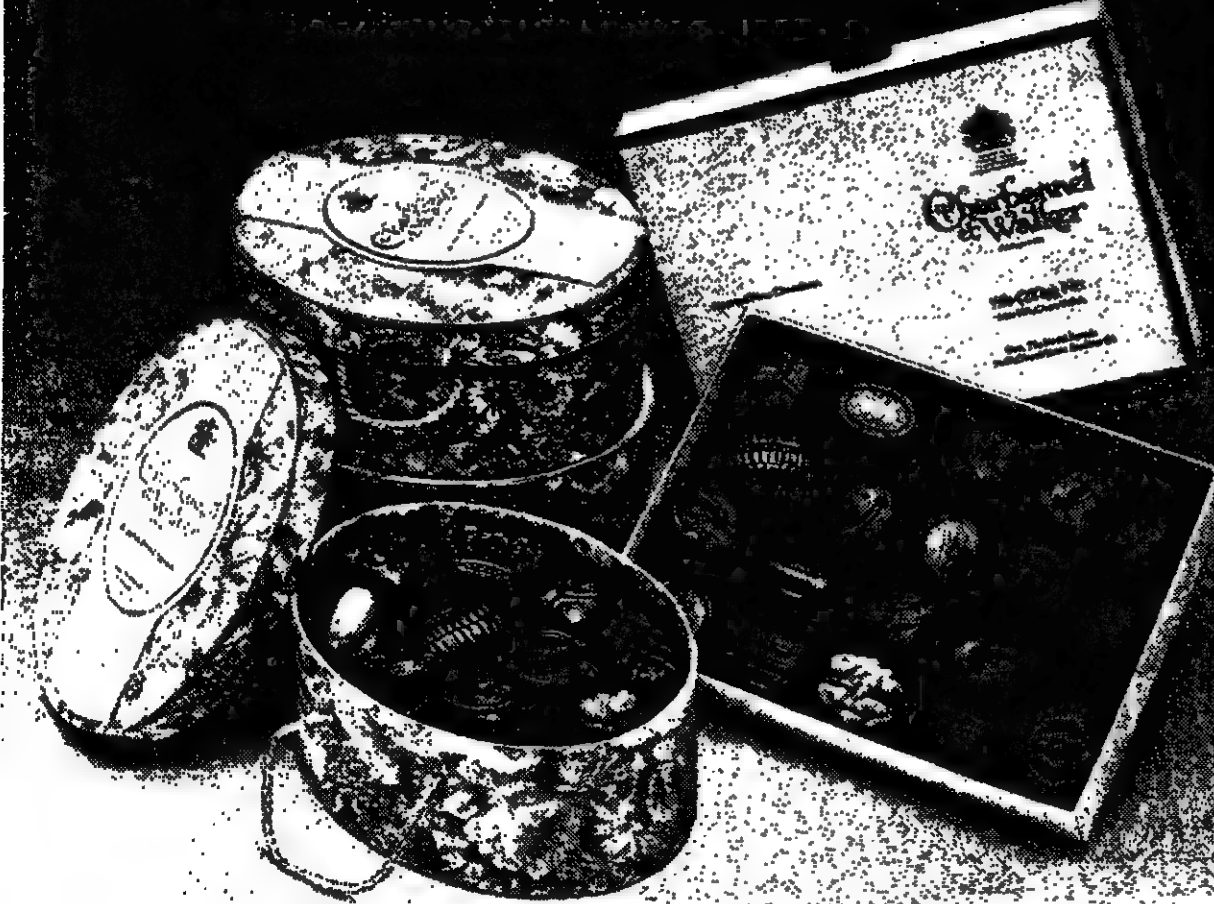
Jigsaw stocks a dress and matching coat in striped wild silk in Neapolitan shades (dress £75, coat £99) that looks ladylike despite its micro-short Sixties hem.

Lucille Lewin has supplies of neat sleeveless dresses priced under £100 in her Whistles shops (London, Oxford, Bath and Glasgow). "Your upper arm has to be in good trim for the sleeveless styles, which is why I have done covers-ups to match," she says.

Arabella Pollen says she was not looking back to the Sixties when she designed the hipster skirts with Perspex buckled belt (£170), ice-blue and white crepe slip dress (£205) and brightly checked hot-pant suits in her spring 1991 collection. "They are styles that are fun to wear. They just turned out looking Sixties," she says.

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THE TIMES

Blossoming art

Jane Packer is exporting her talent for flower arranging to Tokyo, where Japanese women are flocking to her school to pick up new ideas for their ancient art of *ikebana*.

OPENING a flower arranging school in Japan may sound like taking coals to Newcastle, but Jane Packer's London School of Flowers is flourishing in Tokyo.

Her designs incorporate an astonishing variety of elements not usually associated with flower arranging – fruits, fabrics (velvet and silk), moss, bark, asparagus, nuts and aubergines. How do her Japanese students cope with these unusual ingredients?

"They are used to minimal arrangements employing one flower and a contorted branch. But they seem to like the fact that our school allows them to experiment much more," Ms Packer says.

She set up the school last autumn at the invitation of Mitsui, the Japanese trading giant that brought other British imports, including Burberry, to Japan. It is run in tandem with the Hamada company, which operates nine retail stores selling flowers and *ikebana* (arrangement) accessories, with annual sales of 600 million yen (£2.26 million).

Ms Packer is the principal of the school, and takes classes for two weeks twice a year. She writes the curriculum and selects the flowers to be used. With a maximum of 15 pupils each, the classes are a little larger than in Jane Packer's School of Flowers in Maidenhead, north London, which she restricts to ten. Her video, *Living With Flowers*, released in Britain last November, is currently being dubbed into Japanese and will shortly be on sale in Tokyo.

Mitsui is keen to establish the Packer name in Tokyo, and then to progress to the

production of flower-related products – pot-pourri and flower-scented candles, for example, and imported ceramics designed by Ms Packer and made by British manufacturers. Within a year she hopes there will be a range of her products on sale in Tokyo.

"Designers seem to be a vehicle for selling all kinds of things in Japan in a way that just wouldn't work in the West," Ms Packer says.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

ANNABELINDA

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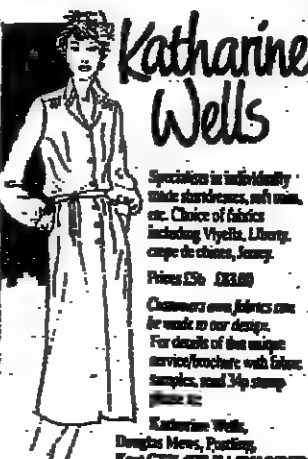
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They've got the time and they've got the money: two views of the role of modern grandparents, and of their value to parents

The best days of their grandparents lives?

The prep school Quinton Hall, in north London, held its first "grandparents day" in 1989 and is preparing for another this year. The headmaster, Peter Milner, uses the occasions "to say thank you for all your help", and to acknowledge the important role of grandparents in the education of children.

Hazel Cina, aged 58, who has two grandsons aged five and eight, at the school, is typical of those grandparents who enjoy such appreciation of their involvement. She has attended all school speech days and concerts and usually tries to take along her own mother, who is 85. "My husband and I have always taken an active interest in my grandsons' schooling," Mrs Cina says, "although we have not offered any financial assistance because my son-in-law has not required any."

According to a Mintel survey last month, other over-fifties are finding that their financial help is being welcomed.

The children of Simon Wheatley, aged 38, a banker and old boy of Quinton Hall who has two sons at the school, are a good illustration. "I am paying my sons' current fees," he says. "However, my parents have very generously been contributing considerable sums of money under deeds of covenant for the secondary school education of all four of our children." (The Wheatleys have sons of 11 and eight, and daughters of ten and three.)

"My parents would certainly like to see the boys at Eton, with Merchant Taylors as a second choice, although — and this sounds terribly sexist — they are not so greatly concerned where the girls go."

The financial adviser Fraser Marr, who specialises in school fees, estimates that the cost of full-time boarding school education for a child until the age of 18 is about £300,000. This would require an outlay of £100,000 to be invested at the child's birth. The sums would be halved for an education at private day schools, according to Tony Murrell, the managing director of Fraser Marr, which was one of the companies con-

sulted by Mintel in its survey. "I was surprised at the extent of the help from grandparents because we found, after the 1988 budget when tax relief was abolished on deeds of covenant for minors, that there was a steep decline," Mr Murrell says. "Now it could well be that grandparents are simply paying school fees as and when they arrive, as opposed to making a gift to the grandchild in a lump sum to be invested, or as a regular income to the parents."

Bill Patterson, of Mintel, who wrote up the report, says: "Grandparents have higher disposal income and higher expectations these days, and we can fairly safely assume that a relatively small proportion of parents can pay for their children's education out of their existing salaries — even though Tesco and tax-free personal equity plans may help. And the property boom of a few years ago means that many grandparents have a great deal of realisable capital in their homes."

Fraser Marr's own recent survey suggested that "it was because of the property boom more than anything else that money has been able to be gifted down a generation", Mr Murrell says. He points out that, in some circumstances, deeds of covenant, although no longer tax exempt, can still be freed from inheritance tax. Fraser Marr may also suggest investing in Fifth Issue index-linked National Savings Certificates — the contemporary equivalent of "granny bonds".

But what will all this granny bonding mean for the balance of power within the family?

Dr Alan Cooklin, who works at the Institute of Family Therapy, and other institutions, says: "The power shift is very interesting... I think we will see more families caught in the dilemma between grandparental views about the development of the family and their own."

Dr Cooklin points out that ownership and money are among the biggest causes of contention in families and that if grandparents are paying the piper they will inevitably call the tune. But he believes that the type of grandparent who will fund school fees might already be quite an

influential family figure. "It means that families have to have some discussions about money which they never had before," he says. "In some families, money is not discussed, it is one of the great taboos."

"The way in which the money is given is important. If grandparents say 'I've set up this trust in order for Johnny to go to Eton', and use their money to undermine the parents, that can be destructive. It is better to give the money with freedom of choice."

Murrell says that, for tax reasons, his company recommends an "arm's length" gift from the grandparents for the absolute benefit of the child. He points out that a situation could arise in which the parents might have no say in how such a gift could be used. "There would need to be a trust fund created with a minimum of two trustees appointed," he says. "One of the parents could be a trustee, but if, on the other hand, the

grandparents are concerned and don't trust their own son or daughter to carry out the wishes of their gift, then they can appoint their own trustee so that the parents have no say in the matter. But we would strongly advise against this, or against earmarking money for a specific school."

Dr David Campbell, a family therapist with the Tavistock Clinic, the counselling service, says that he has seen families where the problem has been the control or influence the grandparents have over educational decisions — particularly when they are paying school fees.

Dr Campbell, who has two children — one in a private school, the other in the state system (but no grandparental help) — cautions that "financial assistance from grandparents can be a double-edged gift. When the grandparents are paying, there is a subtle message about the kind of lifestyle and values they want to be maintained."

VICTORIA MCKEE



Thoroughly involved grandparent: Hazel Cina attends speech days and concert at her grandson, Jonathan's, school

Left holding the baby

I AM a granny, which is a lovely thing to be. But over the last three years and a bit, through firm and systematic training from my daughter, I have developed into a Really Useful Grandmother, and that is better still.

The beginning was child's play. We would drive to London to inspect our new grandson, swear he had recognised and smiled at us, search for hereditary features, present him with yet another home-made cardigan and return to the peace and tranquillity of Salisbury. As time went by, we realised that more was expected. Hints that mothers could do with a break, and that we could take over for a day like other grandparents, could no longer be ignored. "But I can't," I said. "I've forgotten how." I knew my daughter's look. I'd seen the same tolerant expression on my grandson's face as he watched me wrestle with booties, bibs, harness, and an impossible-to-unfold buggy. My daughter was encouraging afterwards. I had done quite well; how about next Thursday?

A few weeks later the telephone rang again. "Oh, ma — Sarah and David have asked us to Dorset for the weekend, so we thought we'd dump Alexander with you on Friday, and pick him up on Sunday. OK?" "I'll ask pa," I said weakly. He merely grunted, then started to hum thoughtfully to himself.

A buggy, folding cot, playpen, high chair, safety gate and a cornucopia of duvets, toys and clothes cascaded out of the car and were hurled into the house. Alexander gave a piercing wail and his parents sped off, waving merrily.

At dawn the next day our grandson was wide awake, bursting with energy. He flashed round the house and its potentially lethal contents, like a small kamikaze pilot. We drew pictures, we sang songs, we read stories, we told stories, we built cushions into houses and knocked them down again, and it was only

11 o'clock. Grandfather coped as I cooked and sieved an amazing amount of food. I even managed to get some of it into Alexander's mouth.

Sunday was a little better, and his parents thought we had done very well. "I'll leave some of his things here," said my daughter. "It'll make it easier for next time."

"Next time" became more and more frequent, and each visit was more fun. Then the telephone calls became worried. Alexander had become a terrible two-year-old overnight. We offered to have him for a while and give her a break.

Alexander was duly delivered, and after two bedtime stories, we crept downstairs. Dull thuds, running footsteps and shrieks of laughter came from above. "Leave this to me, darling," said my husband, who is 6ft 3in and Sandhurst-trained. He came down some time later, avoiding my eyes.

We survived the first morning picking our way through a minefield of tantrums. Friends had asked us to tea. I laid a beautifully-ironed shirt and shorts out carefully, and prepared for battle. "I WANT TO WEAR MY JEANS," bellowed Alexander, scarlet with fury. "I hate this horrid shirt!" He threw it on the floor and stamped on it.

It was now or never — and I was losing. I knew he had just been taken to see the guards at Buckingham Palace. "I am your officer," I roared. "Pick your shirt up at once! At the double... one, two, one, two." Alexander blinked, shook himself, and kept smartly in time as I barked out my commands. "Arms up, one, two. Shirt on, one, two."

"Ah," said my husband, as we marched downstairs. "No trouble getting him dressed, then." When my daughter arrived two weeks later I was almost relaxed. She seemed surprised. "We've had such a happy time," I said. "When can we have him again?"

VALERIE MARSHALL
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THEATRE

Exit, pursued by a quota counter

Benedict Nightingale asks why, despite well-publicised exceptions, British and US actors are not free to come and go as they please

In a world where consumers mattered as much as rulebooks, American audiences would be able to discover why the British are so impressed by Michael Gambon, Michael Bryant, Susan Fleetwood and other stage performers. Londoners might become familiar with names as resonant on Broadway as Joan Allen, Philip Bosco and Stockard Channing. As it is, any producer wanting to bring them either way across the Atlantic will end up feeling as if he is sending a panda by parcel-post to Mongolia. Why endure the bureaucracy, aggro and ado?

Plenty of questions have been raised recently about American Equity in particular. The union is widely agreed to have made itself look foolish, first by challenging a white British actor's right to play a Eurasian in the impending New York production of *Miss Saigon*, then by accepting him in grudging spirit. Perhaps it is time to step back from the Pryce War, as the tabloids have called it, and look more broadly at the closed shop from which hostilities were launched. Why union vetoes on the transport of talent? Why so many restrictions on the happiness of theatregoers?

Both Equities have similar rationing schemes and the clout to enforce them, but the American union does so more strictly. Though a fourth was added in the 1980s, its rulebook lists just three permissible routes into the US for what it warily calls "aliens", rather than the 100 or so Guinness were space invaders.

Aliens may come if they offer "unique services". Should a producer be casting the Cyclops, and a Maxman be the only eight-foot actor with one eye in his forehead, the job is his. Lea Salonga, a Filipina, is starring in New York's *Miss Saigon* because no other Oriental actress matched her skills. British Equity is letting the American Ken Page appear in London in *Children of Eden* for even more impressive reasons. Nobody else apparently qualifies as God.

Again, a British "unit company" may visit America, and vice versa. That sounds straightforward, but in practice is beset with obstacles. British Equity takes a relaxed view of the issue, perhaps because there are so few decent American ensembles. There would have been no fuss if Chicago's Steppenwolf had spent weeks rather than days at the National with its *Grapes of Wrath* in 1989. "We might worry if a West

End theatre was tied up for nine months, but not otherwise," says Peter Finch, theatre secretary of British Equity.

But American Equity requires even the RSC and National to bring no fewer than two productions for no more than 20 weeks when they visit an America city. *Nicholas Nickleby*, a huge success in New York, was accepted only because it was long enough to qualify as a double bill. Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* started at the Abbey in Dublin, then moved to the South Bank. Now plans to take it to Broadway seem to be foundering, partly because it is not commercial enough, but partly because of the difficulty of finding a second production to accompany it. Americans may thus miss one of the finest plays of our time.

Again, "star" performers have free passage either way. The difficulty here is definition. Nobody could reasonably dispute the status of Vanessa Redgrave or Dustin Hoffman, Jack Lemmon or Glenda

they were cast in the British productions of *A Walk in the Woods* and *Les Misérables* respectively. On both sides of the Atlantic, celebrity, glitter and (something actually mentioned in the American rulebook) high earnings matter more than brilliance onstage.

Yet Cox and Whitelaw, Herrman and Lupone, did eventually make the crossing, because of a less formal edict. British performers may sometimes appear in New York, provided the same number of Americans come for the same period to London. Lupone was so to speak, swapped for Ian Baner, who played the lead in a Broadway revival of O'Neill's *Moon for the Misbegotten*. After much argument, Sarah Brightman was allowed into New York for *Phantom of the Opera* because Ann Crumb came to London for *Aspects of Love*. Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre, which Equity refused to accept as a "unit company", could perform in America because it agreed to organise a reciprocal tour for a Los Angeles troupe.

Such exchanges are increasing. Indeed, both Equities regard them as the best way to avoid either the kind of row that occurred when the British union insisted on a British cast for *A Chorus Line*, or a fiasco such as the Broadway production of Trevor Griffiths's *Comedians*, ruined by American demands that Americans played some distinctive British roles. But balancing performer against performer, week against week, is an offputtingly intricate exercise in human book-keeping. "Silly, and an awful waste of time," says Duncan Welton, who recently shipped Peter Hall's production of *The Merchant of Venice* from London to New York. Less experienced impresarios must look at the complexities, and despair.

Nevertheless, American Equity seems to regard even these restrictions as too liberal. In the view of its executive secretary, Alan Eisenberg, every Briton who comes to New York in an important part denies an American the chance to further his or her career. Moreover, he has yet to see his members achieving the fame in London that Robert Lindsay and Colin Wilkinson won in New York in *Me and My Girl* and *Les Misérables*. He talks ominously of raising the question in future negotiations. In some ways his anxiety is

'There is this feeling that we're the theatrical colonies'
— American Equity

Jackson, all of whom have recently appeared on each country's stages. Jeremy Irons was allowed to appear on Broadway in Stoppard's *The Real Thing* because he had been seen onscreen with Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Yet at about the same time Brian Cox and Edward Petherbridge were rejected as "stars" when they sought to accompany Glenda Jackson to New York in O'Neill's *Strange Interlude*. For a long time, Billie Whitelaw was prevented from coming to America to play parts Beckett had created for her. He wrote complainingly: but no, she was not famous enough.

Similarly, British Equity allowed Daniel J. Travanti into London for a stint in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* "because he was in *Hill Street Blues*, and when he walked around the West End, he would be recognised". Yet Edward Herrman and Patric Lupone, big names in New York, were not categorised as stars when



Vanessa Redgrave (above right) starred in *Orpheus Descending* in London and New York, but Jean-Marc Barr (left) did not transfer

understandable. When he allowed Ben Cross to appear in a now-forgotten American play in 1981, he found himself summoned to angry protest meetings in SoHo. In fact, 80 per cent of his members are unemployed, they earn an average annual income equivalent to £10,000, and they fear a flood of foreigners in search of the higher wages Broadway normally offers. "There is this Anglophile thing, this feeling that we're the theatrical colonies," says Eisenberg. "Producers would market the idea that the English do it better."

But that seems a craven view, especially hard to defend when up to half Broadway's theatres are dark. A few all-English imports

might live a moribund New York without imperilling any American actor. The gains of a free market would surely outweigh the losses, perhaps even for actors.

These days, there are as many American plays in New York as British plays in London. It is hard to believe there would not be a busy two-way traffic if restrictions were lifted. For performers, that would mean a refreshing new environment and the chance to grow artistically. For audiences, it would not just mean never having to tolerate Britons straining to do American accents; and vice versa. We would see new faces, new styles of acting, new theatrical ideas. Why deny us that opportunity?

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Compelled by the complexity

With its Elliott Carter festival, the South Bank stides boldly onward in its anti-elitist quest. By which I mean not that Carter's sounds fall easily on the ear of the common man, but that the South Bank remains resolute in its determination to widen the concert repertoire beyond the narrow bounds of the already established, even at the risk of diminishing audience figures.

To the credit of the Park Lane Group, two of the six concerts in this modest celebration were given under its auspices, forming half of the PLG's weekend series of four Práxiz Raimier Memorial Concerts at the Purcell Room. Attendances were extremely healthy, more so than at the other pair of concerts: excellent recitals by former participants in the PLG Young Artists series.

The Carter recitals included the four String Quartets, played by those devoted exponents, the Arditti Quartet. A vast world is travelled by these pieces, yet Carter characteristically explains them away in the simplest terms, describing broad formal outlines and the relationship of the instruments to each other. A pair of duos explores the dynamism inherent in permutations of their different, non-coincident musics in the Third Quartet (1971), for instance, whereas in the Second (1959) four highly individualistic soloists attempt to reconcile their differences through "disciplined" and "companionship". And in the Fourth (1985) the players must plough determinedly onwards in a "spirit of co-operation" which only makes itself obvious at structural punctuation marks, where the instruments join together in a brief chorale.

But in these three quartets the music is tumultuously complex, and so difficult that approximation of rhythm and, occasionally, pitch is inevitable in any performance. Much of their powerful effect does indeed stem from the sensation of watching and hearing four heroic players battling it out against the impossible, though the quartets are certainly not unrelentingly fast and furious.

But there is far more here than mere physical sensations. The bar times itself to new degrees of receptivity, and is beguiled into a determination to unravel the complexities of Carter's counterpoints. It never quite succeeds, but that is another reason why these works are so compelling. In any case, whose ear and mind can completely unravel the textures of Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* during the course of a performance? That piece, by several decades the earliest repertoire I have heard the Arditti play, was a most appropriate introduction to Carter's Third Quartet: its world of, at times, near-chaotic textures, its sense of unbridled physical energy, and, yes, its unorthodox spirituality are all things that Carter's quartets share.

Set against the abstractions of the final three quartets, the First Quartet (1951) seems lyrical, emotional and direct, even though the composer has written of this as the first piece in which he deliberately ignored what he had hitherto thought to be the requirements of his audience. Even here the textures are hardly straightforward. Carter typically plays with his music as if it were some fantastic time-machine, the final variations section consists of sequences of different themes that are repeated faster and faster until they simply vanish. But the work's eloquence and structural originality forge a link between its successors and its natural progenitors, the quartets of Bartók.

That we did not hear the Arditti play some of those was perhaps a pity. Instead, besides the Beethoven, the programmes were supplemented with Stravinsky and with the American composer Ruth Crawford Seeger's Quartet of 1931, an innovative work which contains the roots of some of Carter's techniques.

In every piece the extraordinary Arditti Quartet gave their magnificent all. There have been more beautifully polished performances of the *Grosse Fuge*, but none has better captured its sense of charting the unknown.

In the weekend's first recital, the mezzo-soprano Adèle Paxton, with her pianist



Carter: a sense of unorthodox spirituality

Caroline Dowling, gave a programme that included a beautifully shaped performance of Debussy's *Chansons de Bilitis* and Práxiz Raimier's dense John Donne settings, *Cycle for Declaration*, as well as songs by Schubert and Wolf. This is a ripe and expressive young voice of which we will be hearing more.

Then, on Sunday, the cellist Timothy Gill and his pianist, Paul Pavi, tackled Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata with fervent passion, making some glorious and beautifully balanced sounds. Their enterprise extended to Edison Denzov's Three Pieces, to Philip Wilby's resolute *Parables*, and to Raimier's Suite for solo cello, a work with no pretensions to greatness but one of integrity and inventiveness.

STEPHEN PETTIT

RECORDS: PIANO MUSIC

Excellence that speaks for itself

WHERE were you on September 30 last year? That was the date of Evgeny Kissin's Carnegie Hall debut recital. And just as this 19-year-old Moscow-born pianist has needed no piano competition to give his talent recognition, so this live recording of the recital needs no hype at all to send it on its way.

In an ear-opening programme of Schumann, Prokofiev, Liszt and Chopin, it is the Prokofiev Sixth Sonata which stands out. The work emerges new-minted as one of the most intelligent, imaginative and physically felt performances on record. Kissin already knows his expressive aim, and his knowledge is lit by a quality of insight equalled by technical assurance.

He is apparently inspired by an unwritten programme which evokes Stalin: an image, taken from an early Russian film, of an imprisoned dictator shooting down a sunbeam, focuses his recreation of the finale to extraordinary effect.

Kissin's unfettered energy, and high animal spirits invigorate the Schumann *Symphonic Etudes* and he distributes the "posthumous" variations appropriately through the work. The placing of the fourth one half way through as a still, highly-charged centre is typical of his thinking.

As Kissin moves forward into his life, so Rudolf Firkušný, at 79, looks back. What he sees is his old teacher and mentor, Janáček: his recital contrasts revealingly with a parallel programme recently released by Mikhail Rudi. Firkušný has his master's voice to authenticate what he does: Rudi, by adding the three Moravian Dances, can claim a different type of authenticity by offering Janáček's piano music complete.

Firkušný, receding at first hand the street demonstration which inspired Janáček's Sonata but also remembering the composer's obsession with sensitivity of touch, concentrates on the inner theatre of the piece. Where he oscillates gently between action and reflection, Rudi's rubato is more impulsive and his vision of the work's drama more one

Evgeny Kissin: Carnegie Debut RCA RD60443.
Janáček: Piano Music.
Firkušný: RCA RD60147.
Janáček: Piano Works. Rudi. EMI CDC7 54094 2.
Beethoven: Sonatas 21, 23, 14. Ashkenazy, Decca 425838-2.
Beethoven: Sonatas 31, 17. Arrau, Philips 422067-2.

of contrast than of ebb and flow of energy.
Firkušný reminds us, similarly, that the sketches, *On An Overgrown Path*, were written as an emotional outlet for Janáček after the death of his daughter. Repeated notes melt into tremolo, the polka sidles in more as the thought of a polka. For Rudi, the dance is physically immediate, almost cheeky in its rhythms, and the octave figure in "good night" becomes a dominant motif.

The two discs could stand happily as a complementary



Arrau: ebb and flow

pair, were it not for the recording quality of the Rudi. The actual sound is less pleasant, a shade too resonant, and with the sucking-in sound of the released pedal far too obtrusive.
For Beethoven, Arrau is clearly the man. His questing, singing Op 110 with its tender lament, its hard-won fugue, is coupled with a vibrant reading of the "Tempest" Sonata. This is characteristic latter-day Arrau, with the work's questions and answers, its broken chords and drumming semi-quavers, worked out in a powerful, slow-release ebb and flow of energy. After this, Ashkenazy's "Moonlight" is but a pallid affair, and his "Waldstein" and "Appassionata" disappointingly uninvolved.

HILARY FINCH

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BRIEFING

Almost a namesake

RICHARD Dreyfuss is to star in a film about Alfred Dreyfus. The film, *Prisoner of Honor*, directed by Ken Russell, starts production in London this month. Dreyfuss will not, however, play his neo-namesake, but Lieutenant-Colonel Georges Picquart, chief of the French army statistical section. He was the man who first recognised that the evidence which sent Captain Dreyfus to Devil's Island for espionage in 1894 was forged. Picquart sacrificed his own army career to expose the truth and help clear Dreyfus' name.

Miller turns

HAVING turned his back on his decision to turn his back on opera, Jonathan Miller has never been so busy. In the same month as the good doctor's production of Britten's *Turn of the Screw* returns to the Coliseum (February 16), his new staging of *La Fanciulla del West* opens at La

Scala, and his Met debut is made in New York with *Katya Kabanova*. Moreover, a discovery of asbestos in Florence's Teatro Comunale means that the city's Maggio Musicale festival will be filling smaller opera houses this year — just right for Miller's production of *Così fan tutte*, which is now scheduled for the 18th-century Teatro Pergola.

Last chance

AT THE end of the Van Gogh centenary year, Glasgow nudged in just ahead of the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, with *The Age of Van Gogh*, a large show giving the Dutch context of Van Gogh's art among his immediate predecessors and contemporaries. Although none actually outshines the master, there is much powerful and vibrant art from the post-impressionist era in the Netherlands which (early Mondrian apart) is hardly known abroad and awaits international discovery. At the Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041 649 7151) until February 10.

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ART HISTORY

Party lines and busy signals

A new book about the artist El Lissitzky stops short of explaining why his work often served communist propaganda, says Joseph Connolly

He was a propagandist for the Red Army; a Jew who designed the very first Soviet flag, as well as many crudely proselytising posters. Yet he was also the foremost avant-gardist in Russia, a disciple of Chagall who could turn from architectural design to painting to commercial art as easily as he could adapt his style to the latest influences. What is his ultimate importance? The publication of this week of an impressive new book about El Lissitzky, who died 50 years ago this year, will raise that question once again.

Last year, to honour the centenary of his birth, a large retrospective exhibition was jointly organised by galleries in Edinburgh, Moscow, Madrid and Paris. It is the very substantial catalogue of this exhibition that is published in Britain this week: it forms the most comprehensive analysis to date of every aspect of the artist's formidable and pioneering talents.

Eliezer Markovitch Lissitzky was born near Smolensk into an ordinary Jewish family. He was, by all accounts, determined to be an artist from an early age. Having passed the entrance exam to the art academy in St Petersburg, he was then rejected because the very small number of college and university places allowed to Jews in Tsarist Russia had been filled. In 1909 Lissitzky went to Germany to study architecture: an unexplained break from his hitherto driving passion (bordering upon the compulsive) for freehand drawing. But in 1914, at the outbreak of world war, he was forced to return to Russia along with a great many of his fellow countrymen, most notably Kandinsky and Chagall.

For the next five years, indeed, it was Marc Chagall who wielded the greatest influence over Lissitzky. Chagall introduced him to "Jewish Art": the October Revolution of 1916 had removed all the old Tsarist antisemitic restrictions, and a Jewish renaissance was flourishing. The bulk of Lissitzky's work from this period took the form of rather crude gouaches and peasant woodcuts for Jewish books, the best of them strongly reminiscent of Chagall's work, and the worst lumpy and laboured. Claims have been made that Lissitzky's later, more cubist lithographs foregrounded his immense achievements in geometric and abstract art, but such a perception seems illusory.

More interesting, Lissitzky also carried out some now untraceable propaganda work for the cultural

department of the new communist government. The Soviet flag he designed was paraded in Red Square on May Day, 1918. Does this mean that he was an ardent revolutionary? This new book skirts the issue, other than saying that "Lissitzky did not actively participate in the upheavals". It is certainly true, however, that his first notable poster — a striking design of red triangles and white circles on a black and white ground — carries the uncompromising message: "Beat the Whites with the Red wedge". Here was unabashed propaganda for the Red Army during the civil war.

He continued to work for the Russian government within the realms of architecture, design and exhibition arrangement throughout his life. Indeed, one of his last works was a poster bearing the legend "Give more tanks" across a collage of proud Russian workers and munitions: a style more readily associated with the Nazis.

Lissitzky was a revolutionary, but largely because the new government offered him the freedom to explore with relentless energy the multifarious avenues of his art. In pursuit of a Utopia at a time when such a thing seemed entirely possible, the Tsars had been repressive towards artists in general and Jews in particular; for these reasons, Lissitzky would have supported their overthrow. Furthermore, the Soviet government provided steady income when such a thing was rare, and he was not the first Utopian to have taken this into account.

The course of his artistic ambitions, however, was to be radically altered as a result of Chagall's appointment as commissioner for artistic affairs in Vitebsk (his home town). Lissitzky was taken on as an instructor in 1919, and later that year the faculty was joined by the remarkable Kazimir Malevich.

Within a very short period, Malevich had undergone a rapid development from Impressionism, via Primitivism and Cubism to totally abstract art; as early as 1915 he had produced the first of his Suprematist paintings, in which flat, brightly-coloured geometric shapes float in a sea of white. Chagall (who remained true to the precept of "Jewish art" all his life) disapproved of Malevich's painting theory, but to his disappointment Lissitzky became captivated: he immediately abandoned "Jewish art", became a vociferous disciple of Suprematism, and within twelve months had developed it into



Artist's gift in service of a search for Utopia: a 1929 poster by El Lissitzky is typically heroic

something startling and totally his own.

Lissitzky's new paintings, which he collectively entitled *Praxis* (which some see as a contraction of the Latin *pro uno vis*, or "all for one purpose"), though the artist never made this clear) anchored the floating shapes of Malevich's Suprematist works: the shapes are pinned, and yet float freely in limitless space.

By fusing Suprematism with the Constructivism of the much admired Vladimir Tatlin and Aleksander Rodchenko, Lissitzky quickly established himself as the leading Russian artist. He consolidated his reputation by his contacts with the Dutch *De Stijl* movement, and his

collaboration with its driving force, Van Doesburg.

Lissitzky has been criticised for an eclecticism that constantly drove him from architecture to painting, from typography to exhibition design, from commercial art to three-dimensional constructions and even photography. Art historians are never kind to jack-of-all-trades, but it does seem as if Lissitzky's belief in the need to further art — with his disrespect for adherence to "isms" — took him closer to his Utopian goal than would otherwise have been possible.

The aim of his huge body of work remained coherent: "Every piece of work I did," he wrote, "was an invitation not to make eyes at it but

to take it as a spur to action, to urge our feelings to follow the broad aim of forming a classless society." He is remembered as the foremost Russian avant-garde artist, even if his work never achieved his affirmed ambition to "change the world". Yet one can only wonder at how, in the last years of his life, he continued to support the Stalin propaganda machine, when people continued to disappear — many of them his colleagues. Perhaps, as private disillusion and tuberculosis took hold, he simply could not bear to face the awful reality that had replaced the alluring dream.

El Lissitzky, 1890-1941, edited by Frank Lubbers, is published by Thames and Hudson at £24.95.

RADIO

Not a verse to free publicity

Fiona Pitt-Kethley, a bit out-of-breath, kissed the microphone; it turned into stone. Verse is always easier than prose, and neither is as difficult as travel, which demands a far greater degree of sustained contact with the outside world. And the most hopeful journey of all is the one that terminates in the publisher's office. Those who feel that *The Art of Travel* (Radio 4, Sunday) should be retitled *The Art of Pushing Travel Books* have a valid point. We would not be treated to the thoughts of Dervla Murphy, Bill Bryson and company if they did not have a vested interest in recycling their experiences from the page to the ether. We never hear from footsore analogues.

Pitt-Kethley, the swan of Hastings, belongs to what has been called the press-release school of poetry: her effusion delivers regular bulletins of personal information which may or may not stimulate a future biographer. Her notion of travel takes much the same line. In the course of a self-imposed quest to discover the remnants of the Sybilline cult, she engaged in a parallel endeavour to road-test the manhood of Italy — a novel conjunction of the oracular and the venerable which achieved its most useful result in the person of an archaeological guide. That way, as she candidly pointed out, you get a free tour.

Chary of stressing this second element for gentle listeners, the interviewer Annette Koback concentrated instead on the risks run by a solitary female progressing through a country not renowned for chivalry, which was rather to miss the point. The poetess was not, after all, going so far as to recommend her own gun-ho behaviour as a model for others, although it must be said that her stout declaration that "a woman should be able to go anywhere" is both unanswerably true and unashamedly idealistic. It really is a jungle out there. A foreign female who, for whatever reason, declined to conjugate, would find Latin lessons taking an onerous turn. Then again, a male writer engaged in self-promotion of this stripe would attract an artillery strike of contempt from all quarters. It all depends on conceptual map-reading, on working out your route in advance.

Still veering gallantly along

the wrong track, Koback reminded her guest that Baedeker calls the Sybilline caves "unsuitable for ladies". "Well I'm not a lady," came the prompt and predictable response. As for the first element, the topographical reports tended to the inert and unpoetical. Naples is "an extremely dirty city", whereas Cumae (in the footsteps of Virgil) has "absolutely beautiful countryside". These are judgements from under the huddlers.

A couple of hours later, the same weaver exhumed *Diary of a Madman*, Gogol's unsettling story of progressive derangement in which the narrator ends by being recognised as the true King of Spain — "Spain" being demonstrably a mental asylum. The late Kenneth Williams' account of this affective decline was a revelation of technique, his voice fluting and barking on the very edge of parody. More remarkably yet, this recording was the "enhanced" soundtrack of an uncompleted cartoon film by Richard Williams. Most impressive of all, missing bits had been restored by computer sampling, a procedure which can do for dead actors what DNA engineering cannot yet do for mastodons.

Both of these programmes were delivered by the medium of long-wave which — 60 miles distant from Portland Place — results in an unacceptably scratchy signal. The FM band has been hijacked until further notice by a progressively dispiriting infiltration with all things militaristic. War, war, everywhere... adjust your sets.

MARTIN CROPPER



Fiona Pitt-Kethley: personal information

FILM FESTIVAL: ROTTERDAM

Plain-speaking private enterprise

The attractions of the current Rotterdam Film Festival include a revealing progress report on the Soviet cinema. Surprisingly, amid all the chaos and breakdown, cinema is apparently flourishing. Annual production has rocketed from 140 films to 380.

All but a few productions are still state subsidised; most of them have been made on very low budgets by private co-operatives. There appears to be no lack of investors: some of the money, undoubtedly, comes from the flourishing Soviet-style Mafia.

Moreover, the films are capable of bringing back handsome profits, despite a general decline in enthusiasm for cinema, and the unrealistically low ticket prices in Soviet movie houses. Even though Russian films have a hard time competing in Moscow or Leningrad, where American films and the varied delights of "video-salons" are freely available, the provincial market remains strong.

The new films have the attraction that film censorship and the old taboos have been virtually eliminated. A new genre of film, the *Chernobyl* (black movie) deals openly with aspects of Soviet life which were denied by the sanitised cinema of pre-perestroika: drugs, prostitution, crime, alcoholism, black markets, the homeless and the beggars, boredom and alienation.

This period of outspokenness may prove short-lived. As the KGB begins to resume a dominant role in social organisation, there are signs that a resumption of censorship is imminent. While it would be fascinating to see some of the more sensational and opportunist films of this brief period of freedom, Rotterdam has been screening some of the more serious recent examples.

It seems significant that the two great visionaries of modern Soviet cinema have both died since perestroika: Andrei Tarkovsky in 1986 and Sergei Parajanov last year. Although their disciples and imitators remain, the dominant style of the new Soviet film makers is an earthy realism, emphasised by deliberately unadorned filmic style.

David Robinson reports on what may prove to be a temporary flowering of free expression in Soviet cinema



Fine work: Kumar Shahani's *Kasba*, from India, is a successful transposition of Chekhov's *The Ravine*

Little Vera, which achieved international distribution, was a work of the new school. It is true, in the words of a leading Soviet critic, Andrei Plakhov, that "these completely realistic films actually display a greater and greater tendency towards the grotesque, existential absurdity and existential horror. They do this while remaining completely realistic. Soviet reality itself, the very flesh of a disintegrating society in the grip of a chain-reaction of entropy, is unreal, or, if you wish, completely surreal."

The new film-makers delight in exposing the drab and brutal truth behind the old Utopian image of the Soviet empire. Valeri Kamenskii's *Die, Lie Down, Revive*, which figured in the recent European film awards, is a remembrance of childhood in a far eastern mining community, as grim as a concentration camp, peopled by thieves, drunks, whores and cretins.

Serik Aprimov's *The Last Stop* records the empty life of a returning soldier who discovers in his native Kazakh village, where drinking and fighting are the only recreations, Igor Alimov's *Panzer* chronicles the disorientation of a group of thirtyish Leningraders in the spiritual vacuum of the late Eighties.

Kira Muratova was, in the

past, one of the most banned of Soviet film makers. Even after perestroika her powerful *The Weakness Syndrome* — a feminist view of Soviet confusion and hopelessness — was temporarily prohibited.

This new Russian cinema in some ways takes on the mantle of those 19th-century novelists who set out to diagnose the sickness of their age. Meanwhile those writers themselves are proving their relevance to new times and new societies.

Two Indian entries in Rotterdam both claim Russian sources. Mani Kaul's *Nazar* is a heavy-handed adaptation of a Dostoevsky story (once better adapted by Robert Bresson as *Une Femme Douce*) about the tragic unspoken misery of an ill-matched marriage. Kumar Shahani's *Kasba*, however, is a highly successful transposition of Chekhov's *The Ravine*, about the mutual destruction of an incorrigibly corrupt business family. European trained, Shahani combines the best of both traditions, with a finely narrated and characterised story, conditioned by the awesome landscapes of the Kangra Valley.

This is the twentieth Rotterdam Festival. Its aim has always been to foster "young" cinema: films, according to the new director Marco Müller, which "express an

urgency and relevance in reaction to an endemic lack of tension and enthusiasm".

In the present world climate, "urgency and relevance" leave little scope for optimism and high spirits. The overall pessimism which characterises these Russian and Indian films is detectable in much else in the festival.

A promising Dutch debut, Ben van Lieshout's *Pastengers*, depicts life in a new housing estate in terms as desolate as the fringes of the Soviet empire. Abbas Kiarostami's *Homework*, a thoughtful Iranian documentary, shows the educational machinery which can turn gentle little boys into warriors for Islam.

What is the most optimistic film of the festival comes from the far side of the world. *Tipis Run* is only the second feature to emerge from Papua New Guinea, and is a confident debut for its director, Pengu Mingo. *Tipis* is a battered taxi, operated by an old tribal chief and a modern young tearaway. This world, where tribal wars and freight trucks compete for motorway space, generates a lot of rich comedy and a moral that western societies might adopt with benefit.

During the festival, the public votes daily on the popularity of the films, and it is somehow touching that the runaway favourite with a public mostly under 30 years old is a 62-year-old silent film just rediscovered by the Dutch Film Archive. Frank Buzze's *Lucky Star* was one of the films that somehow was lost in the transition from silent to sound pictures. Today it looks astonishingly modern, almost dispensing with narrative, relying on the subtle interplay of sentiment. The story is a simple but eloquent account of the love of a man, who returns crippled from the first world war, and a gauche farm girl. The couple are played by one of the great romantic duos of the period, Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell. Not a fibre of the film's startling impact on the audience was due to a magisterial musical accompaniment by the British one-man band, Adrian Johnston.

THE TIMES

GUIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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- 8.00 The Channel Four Daily including extended news on the Gulf war
9.25 Schools
- 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary
- 12.05 The Parliament Programme introduced by Sue Cameron
- 12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street
- 2.00 **Film:** The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1935, b/w). While Charles Dickens failed to provide a conclusion to his novel, Hollywood had no compunction in supplying one of its own. David Blomster stars as Edwin Drood, the young nephew of a drug-addicted chemist/doctor (Claude Rains), who falls in love with his uncle's depraved jealousy (John Gielgud). The film is a pastiche of the same woman (Heather Angel). Although Dickens' beliefs might be less than nappy with Hollywood's attempts to provide a credible solution to the mystery, the film is an enjoyable affair which combines good performances with a suitably gritty atmosphere. Also stars Valerie Hobson and Douglas Montgomery. Directed by Stuart Walker
- 3.35 B.A.C.H. Animated Hungarian tale
- 3.48 Third Wave. Series for older viewers. André Melly and a studio audience discuss issues raised in previous programmes and, in particular, how provision for the over 55s in the reunited Germany and the United States have given the British an insight into caring for their elderly. (Teletext)
- 4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game
- 5.00 Kickstarters. A documentary following the attempts of 12-year-old East Enders Philip Gerard to join the Imperial motorcycle display team
- 5.30 How Wars End. A.J.P. Taylor continues his series of impromptu lectures by examining the events leading up to VE Day, which brought an end to the war in Europe on May 8, 1945 (r). (Teletext)
- 6.00 Duet. American romantic comedy following the relationship between two women who meet in Los Angeles. Stars Mary McCormack Laurence and Mary Page Keller.
- 6.30 Remote Control. British version of the popular MTV comedy quiz show with an emphasis on fun and happenings
- 7.00 Channel Four News. (Teletext)
- 7.50 Comment followed by Weather
- 8.00 The Secret Life of... The Radio Set. Tim Hunkin presents another entertaining look at an everyday object. He reveals why a radio pops when a light is switched on, how a five pence piece can be turned into a radio receiver and why the inventor of FM radio committed suicide. (Teletext)
- 8.30 The Survival Factor. Toyah Wilcock narrates a fascinating film on the survival instincts of the cuckoo, a bird that is often heard but only seldom seen. (Teletext)
- 9.00 Without Walls: Hidden Faces. At a time when the West has been forced to come to terms with a different type of relationship with the Arab world, this programme looks at the lives of contemporary Egyptian women. The film was shot over a five-week period in Cairo, El Mina and the remote village of Ilor, and offers a detailed picture of daily life and traditions in Egypt as well as revealing the women's conflicting attitudes towards men, marriage, virginity and circumcison



Crippled by food poisoning: a Spanish victim (10.55pm)



Swiss owner: Alexander Baricun and Wolfram Bauer (10,000,000)

10.00 Eurocopa: Freedom for King Kong.
 ● CHOICE. Switzerland's contribution to the international police

series features the eagle-eyed inspector Brodbeck (Wolfram Berger) of the Basic Coo. Television cops tend to hunt in pairs and like his counterparts in British police shows Brodbeck has a sidekick, the blond and balding Sergeant Merian (Alexander Radtsun). Unlike most British sleuths, both men are married, although Brodbeck is on the verge of a divorce and Merian's wife is making a mysterious visit to Paris with a graffiti artist. In their professional roles, the men are alerted when zoo animals are let loose in the city, apparently by animal rights activists. But this is only the prelude to a case involving a sudden death, cocaine smuggling and a glamorous woman laborer. The piece moves rapidly into its finale and the story eventually becomes rather too involved for its own good, but the enjoyable learning of humour helps to see things through. (With English subtitles)

11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Sex - All the Answers. June Rensch, director of the Kinsey institute, offers the studio audience answers to the most frequently asked questions about sex.

11.50 Channel 4 News - Midnight Special. Ends at 2.00

[illegible]

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

10 PM The Marquello satellite.
10:05pm The Grapes (1955). The history of the wine business in France. Starring Julie Andrews.

11 PM The Movie Show.

11:30pm The Grapes (1955) An insurance investigator plots to rob a bank. Starring Lee Remick.

12:00am Dragnet. 1970. Two schematized cops (Lee Remick, Don Ameable) investigate a bank robbery of \$500,000 (reported).

one-night stand. Starring Lee Thompson and Victoria Jackson. Ends at 2:45

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

10 PM The Marquello satellite.


11:00am Racing Today. 2:00pm American Football.

2:30pm Sports Illustrated.

3:00pm Cleveland 8,000. Winning Magazine. 5:30 Sportsweek. 7:30pm Sports. 9:30 Sportsnet.

10:00 American Meeting. 11:00. Racing Today. 11:30pm Wins There.

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 7.00pm Twenty-one hours of rock and pop



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**Help the Aged
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
● LAW 32,33
● FOCUS: MANAGEMENT BUY-OUTS 28-31
● SPORT 38-42

BUSINESS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

10,000 opt out of generator flotation

SOME 10,000 people have de-registered from the flotation of the two electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen.

Another 105,000 possible investors have joined the list of those eligible for incentives in the share issue. Advisers to the float cannot say how many of the 10,000 who will not be taking part in the sell-off this time are among the 2,000 investors who are waiting for their money back after the distribution of the shares.

P Black review

Peter Black Holdings, the consumer goods manufacturer, is reviewing the future of its home furnishings division because of the downturn in consumer spending. The company has already sold its furniture business and withdrawn from the manufacture of vacuum cleaners.

Pentland boost

Shares in Pentland Group rose 8p to 62p after it completed its purchase of the Speedo swimwear brand and benefited from a fourth-quarter recovery at Reebok, its American associate.

Flogas increase

Flogas, the Irish-based supplier of liquid petroleum gas, reported taxable profits up from £1.02 million to £1.51 million (£1.38 million) for the six months to end-November. Earnings were 5.2p (4.55p) a share. The interim dividend is increased to 2.67p (2.54p).

THE ROUND

US dollar 1.9770 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.8978 (-0.0032)
Exchange index 94.3 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1700.8 (+6.8)
FT-SE 100 2172.4 (+8.7)
New York Dow Jones 2756.93 (+26.24)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 2327.36 (+130.66)
Closing Prices ... Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 15.25-15.5%
3-month eligible bills 15.125-15.25%
US Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6.75%
3-month Treasury 5.56-5.58%
30-year bonds 10.7-10.725%

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close \$367.70-368.20 (£188.00-188.50)
New York: COMEX \$367.75-368.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Mar) \$19.75 bbl (\$20.00)
Densities latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Sale	Buy
Australia \$	2.555	2.487
Austria Sch	2.05	2.07
Belgium Fr	60.0	59.3
Canada \$	2.31	2.285
Denmark Kr	11.11	11.0
Finland Mk	7.13	7.04
France Fr	9.865	9.82
Germany DM	2.51	2.5
Greece Dr	325	315
Hong Kong \$	15.45	15.3
Italy Lit	1,105	1,095
Japan Yen	2190	2185
Netherlands Gld	282	281.5
Norway Kr	11.40	11.31
Portugal Esc	200	199
South Africa Rd	6.50	6.45
Spain Ps	162.5	161.5
Sweden Kr	10.82	10.73
Switzerland Sfr	2.42	2.4
Turkey Lira	6000	6000
USA \$	1.95	1.94
Yugoslavia Dn	137.00	137.00

Notes for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)

Next loses millions on Grattan sale to Otto-Versand



Next's sale: Peter Lomas, finance director, and David Jones

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

NEXT, the fashion store group, is selling its Grattan mail order company to Otto-Versand, the world's largest mail order group, for £140 million. The sale is likely to open up the British mail order industry to aggressive competition.

The £140 million price tag on Grattan stands against a book value of £228 million, and against the £299 million Next paid for Grattan in 1986. Like most retailers, Next has been hit hard by the recession, and the deal comes as part of a wider package aimed at improving the company's financial position. The management is to

wrap the dividend for the financial year to end-January, amid expectations in the City that Next made only a small profit last year. The sale, if approved by shareholders, raises hopes that Next will be able to meet a liability of £163 million, payable to convertible bond holders next year, without having to seek a special refinancing package from its banks.

Next is also seeking a £50 million facility from its banks to meet working capital requirements, and has agreed to make a provision of more than £21 million against Club 24, the short-term credit arm, to which it will reduce its exposure after an increase in bad debts. Next shares fell 2 1/2p to close at 17p.

Neglecting mark stability could lead to EMS collapse, says Pöhl

Central banks move in to support dollar

By COLIN NARBROUGH IN LONDON AND ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

THE dollar plummeted to a record low of DM1.4565 against the mark, prompting the Federal Reserve Board to spearhead intervention by leading central banks on both sides of the Atlantic to halt the slide.

The dollar was pushed down through the previous trading low of DM1.463 reached on December 10. Speculation that interest rates could move still lower in America added to pressure on the dollar, as did remarks by Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president. He said neglecting mark stability could lead to the collapse of the European Monetary System.



Points to ponder: Karl Otto Pöhl at the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday

Bush sees budget balance by 1996

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday sent Congress a \$1,450 billion federal budget for 1992 which admitted a record \$318.1 billion budget deficit for this year but predicted a balanced budget by 1996.

House budget director, blamed this mainly on an \$87 billion revenue shortfall and a \$105 billion increase in estimates for rescuing banks and savings and loan institutions. The deficit includes \$30 billion for the Gulf war though this could be higher.

Gatt settlement 'soon'

From OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR IN DAVOS

A SETTLEMENT of the outstanding disputes in the Uruguay round of international trade talks is likely to be reached soon, and a new trade agreement will probably be signed before the end of the year.

Mr Dunkel would be specific about the precise nature of the breakthrough, one trade official said the atmosphere had improved. On the American side, "artificial deadlines were evaporating", with President Bush making it clear he would press Congress to extend the March 1 cut-off date for a Gatt agreement.

On the European side, proposed reforms in the common agricultural policy were being taken very seriously by Gatt officials and negotiators from America and the Cairns



Comment, page 23

Mr Dunkel said negotiations on a new trade round, which stalled in Brussels in December, were again gaining momentum, and that a determination to solve all the problems now existed "at the highest levels in national capitals". In background conversations, European and American officials went further, indicating that agricultural reforms being considered by the European Community would probably produce a breakthrough soon.

Raymond Barre, the former French prime minister, said on Sunday that a private meeting over the weekend had produced "some news which gave us hope of a resolution of Gatt negotiations in the next few months". Mr Dunkel repeated this yesterday. "My consultations in recent weeks have convinced me that the consensus in favour of a successful conclusion of the round remains intact. I have good reason to believe that governments are preparing for the challenge," he said.

Profits slump after catalogue of errors at Hammicks

Books in turmoil at Menzies

By MARTIN WALLER

A CATALOGUE of accounting and stock control errors at its Hammicks book wholesaling business left John Menzies, the newspaper and book retailer, barely scraping into a pre-tax profit in the six months to October 27. The company's shares tumbled 35p to 300p.

Menzies made just £200,000, against £3.1 million last time, after a £2 million exceptional loss occasioned by the losses at Hammicks, the result of "understatement at the last year-end of trade creditors and the writing down of stock valuations," the company said.

Nonetheless it is raising the interim dividend from 3.25p to 3.4p, even though nearly all the payment will have to come from reserves. The loss per share was 1.4p, against a 2.0p profit.

Ronald Noel-Paton, the group managing director, defended the higher payment. "The decision was taken to put in a marginal increase because of our confidence in the way that the major

bulk of the business is performing," he said. Menzies highlighted its woes with a half-way profits warning. Even disregarding the exceptional losses at Hammicks, profits for the full year would not have reached the £29.1 million the group made pre-tax last time.

The problems at Hammicks, bought in late 1987 and including the chain of high street bookshops of the same name, came after a decision to move the main warehouse to larger premises in Birmingham and to increase the volume of business. "The management and systems of control were swamped. We didn't identify it early enough," admitted Mr Noel-Paton. "It's an enormous sum of money, but it can easily come about in a business like this."

He blamed "a mixture of factors" involving "inaccuracies and inadequate accounting procedures". A new management team had been put in place. Analysts, however, were speculating

Times, page 23

Car firms confirm backing Continental

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S largest car-makers have confirmed that they are part of a share support operation aimed at helping Continental, the German tyre company, fight off a merger proposal by Pirelli, its Italian rival.

Daimler-Benz and BMW said they owned stakes, while Volkswagen announced that it has no shares at present, but intends to build up a stake. The companies were not prepared to give precise figures, but it is understood that the shareholdings range between 1 and 5 per cent. No Continental shareholder at present owns more than 5 per cent because of a restriction limiting voting rights to this level, irrespective of shareholdings.

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By Our City Staff

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Standard Chartered ... 232½p (+8p)

tion when he would give judgment.

'Fair price': Matthews, left, and Beazer, who sold US plant to Blue Circle for \$60m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

About half the group's operating profits come from America but all its dollar debts are there as well. The sale

The Gifford Hill cement plant in Harleyville, commissioned in 1974, produced profits, before interest and overheads, of \$7 million in the year to end-June, John Mat-

BZW expects pre-tax profits of about £70 million in the year to end-June, compared with £105.7 million last year. Beazer shares climbed 12p to 113p.

By NEIL BENNETT

being subscribed for by its three existing institutional holders.

1996, into the Granville Trust banking subsidiary. The funds will be used to expand Granville Trust's loan book.

an Ecu30 million (£21.2 million) venture capital fund.

FROM PETER GUILFORD

European Community foreign ministers yesterday formally approved the new negotiating mandate. Production subsidies would be phased out altogether and research subsidies for new aircraft cut from 70 per cent to 45 per cent, in return for similar concessions from Washington.

Americans in Brussels say Washington still wants government support scaled down to just 75 per cent of research

The group's gearing remains below 20 per cent. Newman Tools shares climbed 70 to 112p.

Wm Cook

reviews bid

WILLIAM Cook, the steel foundry company, is reviewing its £36 million hostile takeover bid for Telfos Holdings and has withdrawn an offer to Edward Duke, former joint managing director of the railway engineering group, to join its board.

Ferranti wins £8m contract

FERRANTI International has won an £8 million development contract for a new generation computer system to monitor and control the production of oil and gas.

system to monitor and control nuclear power stations in Britain. Ferranti expects that the system will be used to refurbish the control and instrumentation systems of up to four of the first generation British advanced gas-cooled reactor power stations.

BANCO Santander, the Spanish bank that owns 10 per cent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, increased net profits by 19 per cent last year to 63.7 billion pesetas (£350 million) in spite of a rise in bad debts. The bank made a Pta79.8 billion bad debt provision, up 26 per cent from last year. The bank's dividend goes up 16 per cent to Pta215 a share.

Santander has been helped by increased competition between Spanish banks, after it pioneered high-interest current accounts in 1989. The bank increased its market share from 3.51 to 5.25 per cent in the year.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Standard Chartered	232 1/2p (+8p)
Glaxo	85 1/2p (+8p)
Heathworth	280 1/2p (+8p)
Halpern	363 1/2p (+8p)
Highdown	176 1/2p (+8p)
Pendland	62p (+3p)
Reunert	77 1/2p (+10p)
Savoy Hotels 'A'	78 1/2p (+15p)
Shaw	10 1/2p (+10p)
News Corp	250p (+21p)
Eurotunnel Units	475p (+10p)
AMEG	362 1/2p (+8p)
Hammerston	82 1/2p (+16p)
LASMO	353p (+9p)
Beezer	11 1/2p (+12p)

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FINAL retail sales figures showed a smaller monthly rise in December than initially reported, and confirmed that the month had the worst year-on-year sales figures since 1981. The Central Statistical Office said the seasonally adjusted volume index of retail sales rose 1.8 per cent in December to 122.4, after falling 0.7 per cent in November. There was a

data that showed the net increase in credit advanced to consumers slowing to £141 million. This matched the 1990 low set last March, after a £229 million increase in November.

The December rise in retail sales, originally given as 1.9 per cent, confounded economists. They believe that it was probably distorted by shifting Christmas sales patterns and inadequate seasonal adjustment.

quarter 1.1 per cent below the previous three months and 0.8 per cent below the same quarter in 1989. This compared with 2.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter growth in 1989. Meanwhile, new credit advanced to consumers by finance houses, building societies and on bank credit cards was a seasonally adjusted £3.86 billion in December, after £3.93 billion the previous month.

The final quarter saw new credit rise 5 per cent against the third quarter, pointing to continued adjustment by the consumer as the recession deepened. Bank credit card lending grew 3 per cent over the same period.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1959						1959						1959					
High	Low	Company	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Company	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Company	Div	Yld	P/E
112	108	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	112	108	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	112	108	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
111	107	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	111	107	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	111	107	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
110	106	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	110	106	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	110	106	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
109	105	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	109	105	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	109	105	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
108	104	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	108	104	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	108	104	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
107	103	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	107	103	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	107	103	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
106	102	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	106	102	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	106	102	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
105	101	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	105	101	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	105	101	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
104	100	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	104	100	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	104	100	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
103	99	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	103	99	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	103	99	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
102	98	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	102	98	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	102	98	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
101	97	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	101	97	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	101	97	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
100	96	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	100	96	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	100	96	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
99	95	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	99	95	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	99	95	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
98	94	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	98	94	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	98	94	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
97	93	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	97	93	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	97	93	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
96	92	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	96	92	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	96	92	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
95	91	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	95	91	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	95	91	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
94	90	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	94	90	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	94	90	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
93	89	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	93	89	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	93	89	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
92	88	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	92	88	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	92	88	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
91	87	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	91	87	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	91	87	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
90	86	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	90	86	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	90	86	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
89	85	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	89	85	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	89	85	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
88	84	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	88	84	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	88	84	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
87	83	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	87	83	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	87	83	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
86	82	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	86	82	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	86	82	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
85	81	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	85	81	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	85	81	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
84	80	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	84	80	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	84	80	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
83	79	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	83	79	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	83	79	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
82	78	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	82	78	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	82	78	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
81	77	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	81	77	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	81	77	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
80	76	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	80	76	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	80	76	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
79	75	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	79	75	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	79	75	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
78	74	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	78	74	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	78	74	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
77	73	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	77	73	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	77	73	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
76	72	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	76	72	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	76	72	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
75	71	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	75	71	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	75	71	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
74	70	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	74	70	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	74	70	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
73	69	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	73	69	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	73	69	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
72	68	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	72	68	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	72	68	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
71	67	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	71	67	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	71	67	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
70	66	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	70	66	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	70	66	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
69	65	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	69	65	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	69	65	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
68	64	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	68	64	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	68	64	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
67	63	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	67	63	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	67	63	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
66	62	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	66	62	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	66	62	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
65	61	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	65	61	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	65	61	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
64	60	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	64	60	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	64	60	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
63	59	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	63	59	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	63	59	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
62	58	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	62	58	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	62	58	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
61	57	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	61	57	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	61	57	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
60	56	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	60	56	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	60	56	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
59	55	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	59	55	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	59	55	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
58	54	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	58	54	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	58	54	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
57	53	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	57	53	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	57	53	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
56	52	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	56	52	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	56	52	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
55	51	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	55	51	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	55	51	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
54	50	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	54	50	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	54	50	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
53	49	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	53	49	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	53	49	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
52	48	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	52	48	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	52	48	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
51	47	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	51	47	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	51	47	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
50	46	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	50	46	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	50	46	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
49	45	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	49	45	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	49	45	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
48	44	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	48	44	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	48	44	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
47	43	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	47	43	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	47	43	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
46	42	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	46	42	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	46	42	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
45	41	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	45	41	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	45	41	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
44	40	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	44	40	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	44	40	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
43	39	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	43	39	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	43	39	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
42	38	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	42	38	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	42	38	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
41	37	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	41	37	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	41	37	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
40	36	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	40	36	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	40	36	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
39	35	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	39	35	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	39	35	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
38	34	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	38	34	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	38	34	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
37	33	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	37	33	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	37	33	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
36	32	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	36	32	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	36	32	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
35	31	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	35	31	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	35	31	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
34	30	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	34	30	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	34	30	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
33	29	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	33	29	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	33	29	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
32	28	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	32	28	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	32	28	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
31	27	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	31	27	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	31	27	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
30	26	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	30	26	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	30	26	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
29	25	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	29	25	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	29	25	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
28	24	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	28	24	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	28	24	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
27	23	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	27	23	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	27	23	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
26	22	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	26	22	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	26	22	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
25	21	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	25	21	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	25	21	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
24	20	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	24	20	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	24	20	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
23	19	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	23	19	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	23	19	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
22	18	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	22	18	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	22	18	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0
21	17	Am. Can.		4.0	15.0	21	17										

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.3 (day's range 94.2-94.4)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Sterling Rates for Foreign				
	Range	Close	1 month	3-12 months
New York	1.9750-1.9805	1.9785-1.9795	1.08-1.08p	3.31-3.28p
London	2.2580-2.2674	2.2585-2.2598	0.85-0.84p	1.25-1.18p
Amsterdam	3.2420-3.2478	3.2425-3.2435	0.20-0.20p	0.20-0.20p
Frankfurt	54.40-55.83	55.47-56.70	20-14p	80-50p
Copenhagen	11.4465-11.1921	11.4511-11.1908	31-24p	9-81p
Stockholm	1.0247-1.0258	1.0255-1.0265	11-11p	31-31p
Paris	2.8550-2.9024	2.8555-2.8590	11-11p	31-31p
Brussels	35.74-35.55	35.74-35.55	11p-11p	14-68p
Madrid	1.187-1.187	1.187-1.187	11p-11p	31-31p
Osaka	271.11-271.45	271.11-271.45	3-1p	21-21p
London	10.8471-1.3716	11.3451-11.3708	21-21p	71-51p
Geneva	1.0250-1.0260	1.0255-1.0265	11-11p	31-31p
Belgium	11.2870-10.2857	11.2840-10.2872	1-1p	21-21p
Portugal	228-12.80-14	228.82-259.85	11-11p	31-31p
Switzerland	34.24-34.25	34.24-34.25	11-11p	31-31p
Turkey	2.4736-2.4738	2.4736-2.4738	11-11p	31-31p

Source: Reuters. Percentages are p/c, Discount or c/d.

MONEY RATES (%)

Sterling Rate Clearing Banks: 14				
Discount Rate London: Overnight 13%				
Treasury Bills (Days): 2 mth 13% 3 mth 13% 6 mth 13% 12 mth 13%				
1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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COMMODITIES

LONDON FOK				SUGAR (C&F)				LONDON OIL REPORTS (C&F-LONG) - London 500000			
COFFEE				C Cane				Lacking any major developments in the Gulf, oil prices edged lower in quiet session			
Mar	877-916	Mar	116-615	Mar	529-229	Mar	189-0-36.8	CRUDE OILS (Spot/1000 PMS)			
May	890-655	May	116-615	May	529-229	May	189-0-36.8				
Jul	912-330	Jul	116-615	Jul	529-229	Jul	189-0-36.8	Shut Pipeline	20.40	+0.3	
Sep	914-718	Sep	116-615	Sep	529-229	Sep	189-0-36.8	Shut 15 day (Apr)	19.76	+0.3	
Nov	914-718	Nov	116-615	Nov	529-229	Nov	189-0-36.8	Shut 15 day (Apr)	19.50	+0.3	
Dec	914-718	Dec	116-615	Dec	529-229	Dec	189-0-36.8	W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	21.00	0.0	
Jan	914-718	Jan	116-615	Jan	529-229	Jan	189-0-36.8	W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.16	-0.4	
Mar	891-798	Mar	116-615	Mar	529-229	Mar	189-0-36.8				
May	907-487	May	116-615	May	529-229	May	189-0-36.8				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				SPICES (Weighted 5000)				PRODUCT C&F NW Europe (strong demand)			
WHEAT				BARLEY				Premium Gas 1.5			
Mar	122-30	Mar	114-55	Feb	108-0-15.0	Feb	108-0-15.0	Spot 847	107	252	110
May	122-30	May	118-70	May	110-0-20.5	May	110-0-20.5	Shut 15 day (Apr)	272	+12	272
Jul	122-30	Jul	118-70	Jul	110-0-20.5	Jul	110-0-20.5	Non EEC 1H Feb	272	+12	272
Sep	122-30	Sep	108-0-15.0	Sep	110-0-20.5	Sep	110-0-20.5	Non EEC 1H Mar	220	-1	220
Nov	122-30	Nov	108-0-15.0	Nov	110-0-20.5	Nov	110-0-20.5	3.5 Fuel Oil	220	-2	220
Dec	122-30	Dec	108-0-15.0	Dec	110-0-20.5	Dec	110-0-20.5	Naphtha	220	-2	220
Jan	122-30	Jan	108-0-15.0	Jan	110-0-20.5	Jan	110-0-20.5	3.5 Fuel Oil	220	-2	220
Mar	122-30	Mar	108-0-15.0	Mar	110-0-20.5	Mar	110-0-20.5				
LONDON POTATO FUTURES				MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES				MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES			
Feb (May)				Average fatback price at representative markets on February 4				Average fatback price at representative markets on February 4			
Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30
Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30
May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30
LONDON CATTLE FUTURES				LONDON SHEEP FUTURES				LONDON PIG FUTURES			
Feb (May)				Feb (May)				Feb (May)			
Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30
Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30
May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30
LONDON PORK FUTURES				LONDON BEEF FUTURES				LONDON LAMB FUTURES			
Feb (May)				Feb (May)				Feb (May)			
Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30	Mar	122-30
Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30	Apr	122-30
May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30	May	122-30

Decision time for British Telecom

COMMENT

Very soon British Telecom has a crucial decision to make. It will shape the trend of future profits in a substantial way according to the outcome, put the government in a difficult position and deliver what amounts to a public kick in the teeth to Sir Bryan Canbary, the telecommunications industry's regulator. Little wonder then that Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, is taking his time.

BT feels that the government's refusal to allow increased rental charges is sufficiently vital to its long term profitability that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission might be called in to act as referee. An MMC investigation would certainly take six months. The delay would threaten any idea of an autumn sale of the government's 49 per cent stake in BT, and sour relations with Sir Bryan dramatically.

BT has lived with the idea of tough regulation since privatisation and has until recently coped comfortably with the price formulae laid down by Sir Bryan and his staff at OfTel. But it wishes to raise rental charges in order to correct what it sees as

a cross-subsidy by call charges. The effect of perpetuating the cross-subsidy would be that new competitors to the market would gain access on what BT sees as unfair terms.

BT has been seething over the way that Sir Bryan and the government are planning to reform the telecom industry. There is a good deal of support for BT's view among investors, for taken to their logical conclusion, the outcome could leave the company on a tight regulatory leash over pricing while at the same time forced to open up access to its systems to others in the name of free competition.

The result, BT says, is that it could lose substantial market share in the years to come. While it is prepared for competition, it has an obligation to its shareholders to ensure as far as possible that the regulatory regime is fair. The Treasury and the trade department have

difficult objectives to reconcile. The laudable aim of increasing competition through encouraging new entrants to the telecoms business on attractive terms conflicts with its wish to complete the privatisation of BT.

The £7 billion or so which the sale might raise would be handy too in a financial year when public spending is increasing.

The government is also vulnerable to charges that having sold the first tranche of BT stock, it is being far tougher on BT than was ever envisaged at the time.

The thrust of the duopoly review, which is examining how the industry should be developed in the future, has so far appeared to favour radical dismantling of BT's privileged position.

In the long run that will almost certainly benefit the consumer. But BT shareholders may not

find the prospect so appealing. The issues are far too important to be left to simmer behind closed doors.

Since OfTel and the DTI appear little moved by BT's arguments on the cross-subsidy and over the future course of regulation, BT has little to lose from an appeal to the MMC. It should waste no further time.

Fast buck

Despite Karl Otto Pöhl's apparent lack of enthusiasm, the group of seven countries plus a few other European central banks duly swung into self-publicised action to shore up the dollar as it precariously tumbled to a new low against the mark.

The main purpose of this can

only be to give the market cause for pause. There has been a full point switch in interest rates in favour of the mark which cannot be denied.

The thinking point is whether this might have been much worse and whether the dollar exchange rate, already at a deep low in terms of purchasing power, had already discounted last week's moves in anything longer than an instant push-button perspective.

The weakness of the American economy is certain, but many are prepared to predict that the German economy is not going to stay immune from the world's problems for too much longer.

So long as the leading economies diverge so markedly, economic and foreign exchange co-operation is going to remain difficult, war or no war. For Britain, this is particularly embarrassing.

Domestic policy is beholden to the sterling/mark rate, whatever the current argument about

trying to break free. That leaves the traditional cable rate as a policy irrelevance even though it remains highly significant for many sectors of industry and a not insignificant sideshow in currency markets. Sterling is stuck in the middle of the battle between German and American currencies, edging up against the dollar, but back down into the dumps against the mark and other exchange-rate mechanism currencies.

If this is a transitional problem, which is far from certain, it is still likely to remain with us for some time. Britain therefore has a strong short-term vested interest in the dollar recovering against the mark, an interest magnified in the mind of a Chancellor who does not seem to have foreseen the problem of getting stuck in the dollar/mark wash.

One alternative would be for sterling to push firmly above \$2. The government could cunningly help by funding its emerging deficit so as to attract international capital flows rather than to reinforce monetary restraint unnecessarily.

Big Japanese banks link up to wrestle the world



More mergers: Yasuichi Mieno, Bank of Japan governor

FOR many years foreign bankers have respected, perhaps even feared, such names as Nomura Securities, Nippon Life and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank (DKB). Nomura is the world's largest securities company with assets of \$5,000 billion (£19.4 billion), Nippon Life the largest insurance company with assets of \$26,000 billion and DKB the largest bank with assets of \$65,000 billion.

What would the world's bankers think if faced with a financial hypermarket that had assets of \$390 billion, offering all kinds of banking, broking, underwriting, insurance, leasing and property services under one roof?

Pure fantasy? Not so. Japan's omnipotent finance ministry seems to be steadily moving towards the creation of giant universal banks.

Before pressure from foreign governments — particularly America — forces the deregulation and liberalisation of its markets, opening them to unprotected international competition, the ministry wants to see that its own constituents are imperious to the foreign challenge.

In talks in Washington, David Malford, US Treasury under-secretary, told Makoto Utsuni, Japanese vice-minister of finance for international affairs, of strong congressional concern about the lack of openness of Japan's financial markets.

The Fair Trade in Financial Services Bill, if approved, would give the American administration the power to retaliate if Tokyo failed to liberalise its markets.

Mr Utsuni told Mr Malford: "We have no problem in liberalisation per se. What we do differ on is the speed of that liberalisation."

Tokyo has been dragging its feet because it realises its financial sector is over-banked, disorganised, and still protected by arcane laws.

The Tokyo authorities have long bemoaned the segmented nature of Japan's financial services. The banks, for exam-

ple, are divided vertically into more than 7,000 institutions, including agricultural and fisheries co-operatives, that can take and place deposits. These range from the most powerful international city banks to the smallest local co-operatives.

As Yasuichi Mieno, the governor of the Bank of Japan, recently pointed out: "More banks may merge as efforts are made to relieve small and

medium-sized banks from the pressures on Japan's financial institutions."

Horizontally also, institutions are divided by article 65, which separates banking from underwriting business, and by other restrictive legislation.

When deregulation eventually brings the circumvention of article 65, securities companies will be free to do banking business, and banks free to do securities business.

Faced with competition from such awesome world market leaders as DKB, the smaller securities houses will have no choice but to accept amalgamation into a "superbank". Likewise, small insurance and leasing companies will be forced to merge or die.

It is easy to imagine how these mergers might go. The six leading financial and commercial companies are grouped around Japan's six largest city banks.

The Sumitomo Group, for example, includes Sumitomo Bank (Japan's third largest), Sumitomo Trust and Banking, Sumitomo Fire and Marine Insurance, Sumitomo Life Insurance, the world's fourth largest life company, Daiwa Securities, Japan's second largest securities house, Sumitomo Lease, and Sumitomo Realty.

A post-deregulation financial hypermarket that rolled all these forces into one would have assets of \$390 billion.

The logistics are on a grand scale, but Sumitomo Bank already has the experience of one merger under its belt — in 1986 it absorbed the ailing Heiwa Sogo Bank.

More recently, there have been several other bank mergers: Mitsui merged with Taiyō Kobe Bank, and on April 1 this year Kyowa and Saitama banks, respectively ranked Japan's tenth and eleventh in terms of assets, will merge.

Further partnerships are being encouraged. Last week the finance ministry said the banking deposit insurance system, which insures individual depositors up to ¥10 million each, would be used to assist mergers.

Paul Heaton, senior analyst at WI Carr (Overseas), said: "The finance ministry's proposal will encourage small regional banks to consider mergers... Restructuring of the financial industry is inevitable and, in order to survive and compete, many banks will have to merge."

JOANNA PITMAN
Tokyo

Grim news at John Menzies

TEMPUS

JOHN Menzies, at one time a byword for its defensive qualities, must be hoping troubles do not come in threes. Last July it revealed £15 million of provisions below the line for an exit from its American Early Learning Centres operation, which had been losing money since it began in 1986.

This time there is a £4 million black hole at Hammonds, the book retailing and wholesaling business, holding pre-tax profits back to just £200,000 for the half year, against £3.1 million last time.

The raised half-way dividend is being paid out of reserves. The shares, already losing ground since WH Smith's figures last week, dived another 35p to 300p.

The Early Learning provisions are sufficient for now, although there is no sign yet of a buyer. The equivalent stores in Britain are trading well but the John Menzies outlets were no more immune to the retail downturn than other sections of the high street over Christmas. Borrowings doubled to about £40 million over the previous year, leaving Men-

zies about 50 per cent geared.

Analysts were scaling back their forecasts even before the latest bad news. Pre-tax profits of £24 million in the year to end-April leave the shares trading on a multiple of 12, falling to nine next year assuming £31 million pre-tax, while the prospective yield looks to be a modest 4.2 per cent. Hardly worth chasing.

Pentland

STEPHEN Rubin and his colleagues at Pentland Group have been rewarded for keeping their nerve over the sale of their 32 per cent stake in Reebok, the American sports shoe group, shelved for the time being because of market conditions in the autumn.

Exports of Reebok's new pump shoes range came good in the fourth quarter, after some alarms earlier in the year, pushing the Reebok share price back up to a level worth 80p per share to Pen-

land. Pentland duly gained 8p to 62p, at which they sell at 7.2 times likely 1990 earnings.

Pentland seems to have assembled worldwide control of the Speedo swimwear brand sensibly, one helpful pointer to the future, when Mr Rubin will try to repeat what was finally an embarrassing success with Reebok. Until sold, the Reebok stake will dominate, delaying any new analysis of the group. Meanwhile, long-term fans have little cause for alarm.

Peter Black

PETER Black Holdings' relationship with Marks and Spencer, which accounts for 65 per cent of its turnover, has come up trumps. At the height of the consumer boom the sort of margins that could be squeezed out of M&S hardly set the City alight, but perspectives have changed. During the first half, which does not include Christmas, Black

maintained profits at £5.3 million before tax, which is no mean achievement in current markets.

M&S imposes strict discipline on all its suppliers, refusing to pick up the bill for rising costs, particularly when demand is so weak. So the only way forward is for suppliers to bite the bullet, which is what Black has done. Extraordinary charges of £3.95 million, leaving a net loss to shareholders of £341,000, cover the cost of withdrawing from sectors of footwear and furnishings. With the home furnishings business also under review, further charges are possible this year.

The interim dividend is maintained at 0.77p a share, payable from earnings of 6.63p, compared with 6.92p. Christmas was a disappointment and it would be a surprise if full-year profits are any better than last time's £10.28 million, putting the shares, unchanged at 108p, on an undemanding prospective p/e of eight. Sentiment will not change however, until interest rates begin to fall.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Angel Walker beyond doubt

WALTER Walker, the one-time Hoare Govett partner, has resurfaced wearing a bow tie and multi-coloured shirts. He left Hoare more than two years ago to become, briefly, managing director of the UK division of Chin Tung, the Far Eastern stockbroking subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank. Since leaving the Square Mile, Walker, aged 45, whiled away his time helping out behind the scenes at the Westminster Theatre in London's Victoria. But, never content to be a back-room boy for long, he and a couple of other Westminster Theatre employees have now formed their own production company, Millennium Production, and have secured the rights to Jeffrey Archer's play, *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*. Starring Barbara Murray and Francis Matthews, it began a provincial tour on Friday night at the Royal Theatre, Northampton, with advance box office bookings running at a record. "I had had enough of stockbroking and although I had never acted in my life, I found the theatre quite beguiling," says Walker. Millennium's managing director. "But there are lots of complementary areas, like risk management, whether it's evaluating shares or plays, and raising finance."

Walker is personally the largest single backer for *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, but he has established a network of "angels" for future productions,

most of them former partners of Hoare Govett. "When I come into the City I wear a bow tie and outrageous shirt, since that's what they expect, and when I have a theatre meeting, I dress like a stock broker. It seems to work quite well."

Taken to cleaners

MANY people, if the truth be known, still take their dirty laundry home to mother. But Peter Binns, the City PR man who is now a director of the Haggie Company, does the opposite. Binns, aged 42, recently returned from a three-week holiday in New York, visiting his mother, arriving at his Barbican flat with a suitcase full of dirty clothes. He then dispatched them to a laundry in Ilford, Essex, but, to the increasing alarm of his

colleagues, the said clothes failed to return. As he is renowned for his dapper "preppy-style" dress sense and obligatory button-down Brooks Brothers shirts, his colleagues could not help but notice that he kept wearing the same shirt day after day. "We were beginning to wonder if he had bought a job lot," says one, "but fortunately his clothes were returned at the end of last week, just before it became a serious problem."

The clothes had been mislaid somewhere between Ilford and the tower blocks of the Barbican.

NOTICE outside a slimming club in Leeds: "Gone to lunch — 12.55 to 1."

Booming business

THE days of the mega-buyout may be long gone but for some in the City, at least, there is more than enough business to go round. Such is the view of Ronald Stewart-Brown, the corporate financier, who has just joined Foreign & Colonial Ventures as a director. "The volume of deals is the same even though the aggregate value is much lower," says Stewart-Brown, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, who has spent the past seven years as joint managing director of Morris, Stewart-Brown, a specialist venture capital firm he helped set up. "It is a fascinating and challenging occupation, putting deals together from nothing but a few ideas." He spent several years with Kleinwort Benson in the

Seventies, working alongside David Clementi, the electricity guru, and has just returned from a less than successful cruise down the Nile with his wife. "Our boat hit a sand bank after just two-and-a-half hours, and we spent the rest of the trip following the river by taxi," he laments.

Taxing puzzle

SOMERSET House, home to the Inland Revenue, has never been noted for its speed or imagination. But observers long hardened to the mysterious ways of the taxman were, nevertheless, surprised by a new ruling released last week concerning the West African state of Ghana. It seems that it has taken the Revenue 13 years to discover that a tax treaty, signed between Ghana and Britain in 1977, has never existed. And in desperation, it has now fallen back on a taxation agreement signed with the Gold Coast — as the former colony was then known — in 1947. "We understood that they had ratified the treaty, but it seems this was not the case," says a bemused Revenue spokesman, adding that British companies dealing with Ghana will not be any the worse-off for this change. "There have been several changes of government there since 1977, and we only found out about it when UK companies approached us." A meeting in Accra is now planned later this year to settle the affair once and for all.

CAROL LEONARD



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Find out how cost effective we are by calling David Richardson today, on 0273 21211 or Freephone 0800 521371.

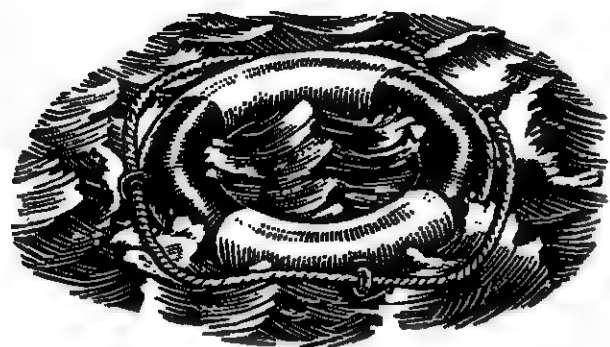
International Factors

The perfect partner for the growing business

A founder member of the Association of British Factors and Discounters.

International Factors Limited, Sovereign House, Church Street, Brighton BN1 3WJ

If you want Pool Price electricity, we won't throw you in at the deep end.



If your business uses 1MW or more of electricity, and you're absolutely swimming in competitive supply offers, talk to Midlands Electricity.

If you don't you may be paying over the odds for your power.

How can we be so sure of ourselves?

Because we're able to offer you this: Pool Price electricity. Pool Price is the pure price of generated electricity.

Buying at Pool Price from MEB allows you the privilege of knowing the price of electricity every single half hour — the ultimate way of choosing when and when not to use electricity.



In addition to straight Pool Price contracts we have several other watertight ways for you to try Pool Price for yourself.



You can buy Pool and revert to a conventional price retrospectively. Alternatively, we can provide an MEB hedge for a more predictable price per kw.

Or you can continue with your normal electricity contract. Simultaneously, we'll provide you with our Pool Price Information Service. Thus you can put a toe in the water and determine whether Pool Price is right for your company in the future.



If you want to know more about how to buy Pool for your company, take the plunge and call Ken Clarkson on 021-585 5695, now.

MEB

Midlands Electricity plc

MEB Headquarters, Muddow Hill, Holesown, West Midlands B62 8BP.

WALL STREET

Dow steady in early trading

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR INDICES

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2758.93 (+26.24)
S&P Composite	348.36 (+3.31)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	23287.36 (+130.66)
Hang Seng	3250.43 (+26.94)
FT-SE Eurotrack	562.57 (+6.08)
Amsterdam:	
CSX Tendancy	80.8 (+4.0)
Syncom 10	1315.00 (+1.00)
Frankfurt DAX	1435.03 (+5.52)
Brussels:	
General	4951.52 (+18.30)
Paris: CAC	418.78 (+2.49)
Zurich: SKA Gen	481.0 (+5.8)
London:	
FT-Aux Share	1038.76 (+4.35)
FT-100 Index	1148.06 (+3.03)
FT. Gold Mines	134.9 (-1.7)
FT. Fixed Interest	33.47 (+0.45)
FT. Govt Secs	84.55 (+0.04)
SEAD Volume	355.5M
US\$ (Datalstream)	111.79 (-0.48)

*Denotes latest trading price

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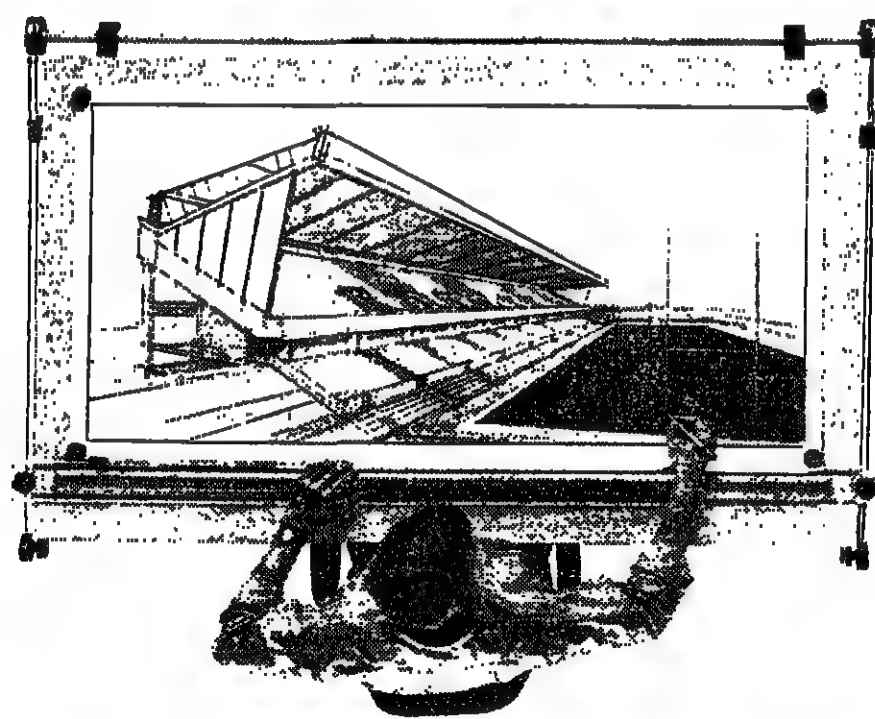
LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES		
Police Gp		21
Protest Ind		85
Serton Healthcare		
St James Place		153 + 2
Smaller It		60 - 1
Stand Patrol		81
Tro Euro Growth		159
Tro Ind Test		81
Utd Energy		44 + 1
Utd Invest		1 +
Unchem		92
Wing Tpe App		116
		166 + 4
RIGHTS ISSUES		
For & Col N/P		
Tesco N/P		39
(Issue price in brackets)		

**The pen
is mightier than the
fire extinguisher.**



British Steel: adding value



British Steel: adding value

هكنا من النضال

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Come rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
2	Type Test TV	Leisure	
3	Gr Portland	Property	
4	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	
5	Wolsey	Industrials S-Z	
6	Wolfsingham & D	Breweries	
7	Br Aerospace	Motors/Aircraft	
8	Dela	Electricals	
9	Propagator	Property	
10	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	
11	T & N	Industrials S-Z	
12	Unid Biscuits	Food	
13	Kingfisher	Draperies/Stores	
14	Groceries Ltd	Breweries	
15	Haywards	Industrials E-K	
16	Imperial	Oil/Gas	
17	Pearland	Industrials L-R	
18	MEPC (as)	Property	
19	Vaux Group	Breweries	
20	Williams Ridge	Industrials S-Z	
21	Westpac	Bank/Discount	
22	Watson & Philip	Food	
23	Bam	Draperies/Stores	
24	BOC	Industrials A-D	
25	Hilldown	Food	
26	TNT	Transport	
27	Bechtel	Industrials A-D	
28	Brown Shale	Bank/Discount	
29	Chico	Industrials E-K	
30	Flintco C&W	Industrials E-K	
31	Unid Newspapers	Newspapers/Pub	
32	AB Food	Food	
33	Cadbury-Schep	Food	
34	Honda Motor	Motors/Aircraft	
35	Northumbrian	Water	
36	Grand Met	Breweries	
37	RPS Ltd	Building/Roads	
38	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
39	Whitcomb	Industrials S-Z	
40	WCC	Electricals	
41	Yardley Water	Water	
42	Sea & New	Breweries	
43	Mangrove	Industrials L-R	
44	Midland	Bank/Discount	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Three readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Halima Halibaitan, of Surbiton, Surrey; Mr E Evans, of Sherborne, Dorset; and Mrs Dawn Barchard, of Winchester, Hampshire, each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Gain Loss Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX LINK	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	High	Low	Gain	Loss	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

1078/1059	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 1998	170	-%
1711/1239	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2001	138	-%
1060/1229	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2003	132	-%
1380/1189	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2005	132	-%
1357/1122	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2007	136	-%
127 133K	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2009	152	-%
1511/1175	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2013	129	-0.4%
1099/979	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2013	106	-0.4%
1167/1053	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2015	114	-0.4%
1122/1021	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2020	119	-0.4%
95/ 95	Treasury IL 2 1/2% 2024	92	-%

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91		Company	Price		Gross Change \$/b	Vol %	F/T	
High	Low		Bid	Offer				
232	172	Abbey National	251	250	+46	8.4	2.3	13.3
285	185	Aldi Fresh	128	137	+1	—	—	—
52	80	Asda (grocery)	57	62	—	0.5	5.3	17.7
333	121	Asda Home & Garden	126	132	+1	—	—	—
104	84	B&M	144	—	—	—	—	—
286	133	Bank of Ireland	147	155	+1	—	—	—
128	134	Bank Leontia	18	21	—	—	—	—
198	134	Bank Leontia	18	21	—	0.010	5.7	10.0

200	3404	Bank of Canada	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
129	190	Bank of Montreal	38	45	-	3.7	8.8
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
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200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal	123	125	-	8.8	5.5
200	3404	Bank of Montreal					

345	152	191	High	Net	Fin	150	180	157	-1	17.3	10.1
245	14	14	14	14	14	21	21	21	0	0	0
325	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	0	0	0
154	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	0	0	0
305	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	0	0	0
304	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	0	0	0
478	371	371	371	371	371	371	371	371	0	0	0
478	371	371	371	371	371	371	371	371	0	0	0
130	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	0	0	0
432	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	0	0	0
416	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	0	0	0
301	252	252	252	252	252	252	252	252	0	0	0
461	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	0	0	0
268	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	0	0	0
308	237	237	237	237	237	237	237	237	0	0	0

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities lose early lead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 28. Dealings end February 8. Contango day February 11. Settlement day February 18. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91		Price		Gain		Vol	
High	Low	Bid	Offer	Change	%	P	F
254	118	100	117	+12	10.2	6.5	6.0
255	122	105	120	+15	12.3	7.5	6.5
256	125	108	123	+15	12.0	8.0	7.0
257	128	110	125	+15	13.6	9.0	8.0
258	130	112	127	+15	13.3	10.0	9.0
259	132	114	129	+15	13.2	11.0	10.0
260	134	116	131	+15	13.0	12.0	11.0
261	136	118	133	+15	12.7	13.0	12.0
262	138	120	135	+15	12.5	14.0	13.0
263	140	122	137	+15	12.3	15.0	14.0
264	142	124	139	+15	12.1	16.0	15.0
265	144	126	141	+15	11.9	17.0	16.0
266	146	128	143	+15	11.7	18.0	17.0
267	148	130	145	+15	11.5	19.0	18.0
268	150	132	147	+15	11.3	20.0	19.0
269	152	134	149	+15	11.1	21.0	20.0
270	154	136	151	+15	10.9	22.0	21.0
271	156	138	153	+15	10.7	23.0	22.0
272	158	140	155	+15	10.5	24.0	23.0
273	160	142	157	+15	10.3	25.0	24.0
274	162	144	159	+15	10.1	26.0	25.0
275	164	146	161	+15	9.9	27.0	26.0
276	166	148	163	+15	9.7	28.0	27.0
277	168	150	165	+15	9.5	29.0	28.0
278	170	152	167	+15	9.3	30.0	29.0
279	172	154	169	+15	9.1	31.0	30.0
280	174	156	171	+15	8.9	32.0	31.0
281	176	158	173	+15	8.7	33.0	32.0
282	178	160	175	+15	8.5	34.0	33.0
283	180	162	177	+15	8.3	35.0	34.0
284	182	164	179	+15	8.1	36.0	35.0
285	184	166	181	+15	7.9	37.0	36.0
286	186	168	183	+15	7.7	38.0	37.0
287	188	170	185	+15	7.5	39.0	38.0
288	190	172	187	+15	7.3	40.0	39.0
289	192	174	189	+15	7.1	41.0	40.0
290	194	176	191	+15	6.9	42.0	41.0
291	196	178	193	+15	6.7	43.0	42.0
292	198	180	195	+15	6.5	44.0	43.0
293	200	182	197	+15	6.3	45.0	44.0
294	202	184	199	+15	6.1	46.0	45.0
295	204	186	201	+15	5.9	47.0	46.0
296	206	188	203	+15	5.7	48.0	47.0
297	208	190	205	+15	5.5	49.0	48.0
298	210	192	207	+15	5.3	50.0	49.0
299	212	194	209	+15	5.1	51.0	50.0
300	214	196	211	+15	4.9	52.0	51.0
301	216	198	213	+15	4.7	53.0	52.0
302	218	200	215	+15	4.5	54.0	53.0
303	220	202	217	+15	4.3	55.0	54.0
304	222	204	219	+15	4.1	56.0	55.0
305	224	206	221	+15	3.9	57.0	56.0
306	226	208	223	+15	3.7	58.0	57.0
307	228	210	225	+15	3.5	59.0	58.0
308	230	212	227	+15	3.3	60.0	59.0
309	232	214	229	+15	3.1	61.0	60.0
310	234	216	231	+15	2.9	62.0	61.0
311	236	218	233	+15	2.7	63.0	62.0
312	238	220	235	+15	2.5	64.0	63.0
313	240	222	237	+15	2.3	65.0	64.0
314	242	224	239	+15	2.1	66.0	65.0
315	244	226	241	+15	1.9	67.0	66.0
316	246	228	243	+15	1.7	68.0	67.0
317	248	230	245	+15	1.5	69.0	68.0
318	250	232	247	+15	1.3	70.0	69.0
319	252	234	249	+15	1.1	71.0	70.0
320	254	236	251	+15	0.9	72.0	71.0
321	256	238	253	+15	0.7	73.0	72.0
322	258	240	255	+15	0.5	74.0	73.0
323	260	242	257	+15	0.3	75.0	74.0
324	262	244	259	+15	0.1	76.0	75.0
325	264	246	261	+15	-0.1	77.0	76.0
326	266	248	263	+15	-0.3	78.0	77.0
327	268	250	265	+15	-0.5	79.0	78.0
328	270	252	267	+15	-0.7	80.0	79.0
329	272	254	269	+15	-0.9	81.0	80.0
330	274	256	271	+15	-1.1	82.0	81.0
331	276	258	273	+15	-1.3	83.0	82.0
332	278	260	275	+15	-1.5	84.0	83.0
333	280	262	277	+15	-1.7	85.0	84.0
334	282	264	279	+15	-1.9	86.0	85.0
335	284	266	281	+15	-2.1	87.0	86.0
336	286	268	283	+15	-2.3	88.0	87.0
337	288	270	285	+15	-2.5	89.0	88.0
338	290	272	287	+15	-2.7	90.0	89.0
339	292	274	289	+15	-2.9	91.0	90.0
340	294	276	291	+15	-3.1	92.0	91.0
341	296	278	293	+15	-3.3	93.0	92.0
342	298	280	295	+15	-3.5	94.0	93.0
343	300	282	297	+15	-3.7	95.0	94.0
344	302	284	299	+15	-3.9	96.0	95.0
345	304	286	301	+15	-4.1	97.0	96.0
346	306	288	303	+15	-4.3	98.0	97.0
347	308	290	305	+15	-4.5	99.0	98.0
348	310	292	307	+15	-4.7	100.0	99.0
349	312	294	309	+15	-4.9		
350	314	296	311	+15	-5.1		
351	316	298	313	+15	-5.3		
352	318	300	315	+15	-5.5		
353	320	302	317	+15	-5.7		
354	322	304	319	+15	-5.9		
355	324	306	321	+15	-6.1		
356	326	308	323	+15	-6.3		
357	328	310	325	+15	-6.5		
358	330	312	327	+15	-6.7		
359	332	314	329	+15	-6.9		
360	334	316	331	+15	-7.1		
361	336	318	333	+15	-7.3		
362	338	320	335	+15	-7.5		
363	340	322	337	+15	-7.7		
364	342	324	339	+15	-7.9		
365	344	326	341	+15	-8.1		
366	346	328	343	+15	-8.3		
367	348	330	345	+15	-8.5		
368	350	332	347	+15	-8.7		
369	352	334	349	+15	-8.9		
370	354	336	351	+15	-9.1		
371	356	338	353	+15	-9.3		
372	358	340	355	+15	-9.5		
373	360	342	357	+15	-9.7		
374	362	344	359	+15	-9.9		
375	364	346	361	+15	-10.1		
376	366	348	363	+15	-10.3		
377	368	350	365	+15	-10.5		
378	370	352	367	+15	-10.7		
379	372	354	369	+15	-10.9		
380	374	356	371	+15	-11.1		
381	376	358	373	+15	-11.3		
382	378	360	375	+15	-11.5		
383	380	362	377	+15	-11.7		
384	382	364	379	+15	-11.9		
385	384	366	381	+15	-12.1		
386	386	368	383	+15	-12.3		
387	388	370	385	+15	-12.5		
388	390	372	387	+15	-12.7		
389	392	374	389	+15	-12.9		
390	394	376	391	+15	-13.1		
391	396	378	393	+15	-13.3		
392	398	380	395	+15	-13.5		
393	400	382	397	+15	-13.7		
394	402	384	399	+15	-13.9		
395	404	386	401	+15	-14.1		
396	406	388	403	+15	-14.3		
397	408	390	405	+15	-14.5		
398	410	392	407	+15	-14.7		
399	412	394	409	+15	-14.9		
400	414	396	411	+15	-15.1		
401	416	398	413	+15	-15.3		
402	418	400	415	+15	-15.5		
403	420	402	417	+15	-15.7		
404	422	404	419	+15	-15.9		
405	424	406	421	+15	-16.1		
406	426	408	423	+15	-16.3		
407	428	410	425	+15	-16.5		
408	430	412	427	+15	-16.7		
409	432	414	429	+15	-16.9		
410	434	416	431	+15	-17.1		
411	436	418	433	+15	-17.3		
412	438	420	435	+15	-17.5		
413	440	422	437	+15	-17.7		
414	442	424	439	+15	-17.9		
415	444	426	441	+15	-18.1		
416	446	428	443	+15	-18.3		
417	448	430	445	+15	-18.5		
418	450	432	447	+15	-18.7		
419	452	434	449	+15	-18.9		
420	454	436	451	+15	-19.1		
421	456	438	453	+15	-19.3		
422	458	440	455	+15	-19.5		
423	460	442	457	+15	-19.7		
424	462	444	459	+15	-19.9		
425	464	446	461	+15	-20.1		
426	466	448	463	+15	-20.3		
427	468	450	465	+15	-20.5		
428	470	452	467	+15	-20.7		
429	472	454	469	+15	-20.9		
430	474	456	471	+15	-21.1		
431	476	458	473	+15	-21.3		
432	478	460	475	+15	-21.5		
433	480	462	477	+15	-21.7		
434	482	464	479	+15	-21.9		
435	484	466	481	+15	-22.1		
436	486	468	483	+15	-22.3		
437	488	470	485	+15	-22.5		
438	490	472	487	+15	-22.7		
439	492	474	489	+15	-22.9		
440	494	476	491	+15	-23.1		
441	496	478	493	+15	-23.3		
442	498	480	495	+15	-23.5		
443	500	482	497	+15	-23.7		
444	502	484	499	+15	-23		

BREWERIES									
530	495	Altamira	491	455	4	224	47	18.3	
124	88	Beck's (m)	104	95	-9	72	43	5.6	
170	134	Budweiser	127	127	-1	72	5	2.1	
281	261	Delmonte (W P)	175	165	-10	16.0	8.9	23.5	
257	195	Domestic	115	112	-3	5.5	49	12.2	
490	438	St. Louis	355	340	-15	16.0	5.0	12.5	
280	213	Coors (m)	138	141	3	7.1	5.0	12.5	
115	4	Four Seasons	10	5	-5	7.1	47	11.7	

389	274	Green Mt	552	501	+4	11.5	4.5	7.5
489	313	Green Mt	373	363	+1	2.8	2.8	1.5
523	630		758	702	+4	21.7	5.0	11.0
555	670A	Harley & Hanson	745	741	+4	44.7	3.0	14.0
555	670B	Harley & Hanson	745	741	+4	44.7	3.0	14.0
153	120	Interstate Dist	142	141	-1	0.7	4.7	12.7
480	373	Interstate	415	423	+8	8.1	3.0	10.5
352	140	Marathon	185	180	-5	5.0	5.0	10.5
352	140	Marathon	185	180	-5	5.0	5.0	10.5
736	483	SA Brackets	590	590				
282	273	S&W	350	335	-15	13.7	4.8	12.1
282	273	S&W	350	335	-15	13.7	4.8	12.1
289	174	Van Group	172	181	+9	11.3	6.0	11.0
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
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480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
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480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7
480	373	Washington X	445	445	+0	12.4	1.5	3.7

1990/91 High Low Gain Loss Price Change %	1990/91 High Low Gain Loss Price Change %						
1	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

1990/91	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1
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199	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
190	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
181	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
172	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
163	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
154	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
145	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
136	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
127	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
118	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
109	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
100	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
91	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
82	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
73	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
64	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
55	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
46	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
37	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
28	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
19	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
10	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1
1	25	25	0	0	1.1	4.2	1.1

768	283	Chesley	275	450	173	100	73
769	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
770	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
771	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
772	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
773	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
774	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
775	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
776	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
777	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
778	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
779	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
780	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
781	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
782	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
783	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
784	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
785	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
786	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
787	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
788	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
789	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
790	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
791	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
792	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
793	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
794	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
795	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
796	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
797	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
798	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
799	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73
800	283	Johnson	275	450	173	100	73

199	34	Marley	27	100	+4	82	83	83
134	71	Marshall	28	100	+4	77	77	77
135	72	Marshall	29	100	+4	77	77	77
136	73	Marshall	30	100	+4	77	77	77
137	74	Marshall	31	100	+4	77	77	77
138	75	Marshall	32	100	+4	77	77	77
139	76	Marshall	33	100	+4	77	77	77
140	77	Marshall	34	100	+4	77	77	77
141	78	Marshall	35	100	+4	77	77	77
142	79	Marshall	36	100	+4	77	77	77
143	80	Marshall	37	100	+4	77	77	77
144	81	Marshall	38	100	+4	77	77	77
145	82	Marshall	39	100	+4	77	77	77
146	83	Marshall	40	100	+4	77	77	77
147	84	Marshall	41	100	+4	77	77	77
148	85	Marshall	42	100	+4	77	77	77
149	86	Marshall	43	100	+4	77	77	77
150	87	Marshall	44	100	+4	77	77	77
151	88	Marshall	45	100	+4	77	77	77
152	89	Marshall	46	100	+4	77	77	77
153	90	Marshall	47	100	+4	77	77	77
154	91	Marshall	48	100	+4	77	77	77
155	92	Marshall	49	100	+4	77	77	77
156	93	Marshall	50	100	+4	77	77	77
157	94	Marshall	51	100	+4	77	77	77
158	95	Marshall	52	100	+4	77	77	77
159	96	Marshall	53	100	+4	77	77	77
160	97	Marshall	54	100	+4	77	77	77
161	98	Marshall	55	100	+4	77	77	77
162	99	Marshall	56	100	+4	77	77	77
163	100	Marshall	57	100	+4	77	77	77
164	101	Marshall	58	100	+4	77	77	77
165	102	Marshall	59	100	+4	77	77	77
166	103	Marshall	60	100	+4	77	77	77
167	104	Marshall	61	100	+4	77	77	77
168	105	Marshall	62	100	+4	77	77	77
169	106	Marshall	63	100	+4	77	77	77
170	107	Marshall	64	100	+4	77	77	77
171	108	Marshall	65	100	+4	77	77	77
172	109	Marshall	66	100	+4	77	77	77
173	110	Marshall	67	100	+4	77	77	77
174	111	Marshall	68	100	+4	77	77	77
175	112	Marshall	69	100	+4	77	77	77
176	113	Marshall	70	100	+4	77	77	77
177	114	Marshall	71	100	+4	77	77	77
178	115	Marshall	72	100	+4	77	77	77
179	116	Marshall	73	100	+4	77	77	77
180	117	Marshall	74	100	+4	77	77	77
181	118	Marshall	75	100	+4	77	77	77
182	119	Marshall	76	100	+4	77	77	77
183	120	Marshall	77	100	+4	77	77	77
184	121	Marshall	78	100	+4	77	77	77
185	122	Marshall	79	100	+4	77	77	77
186	123	Marshall	80	100	+4	77	77	77
187	124	Marshall	81	100	+4	77	77	77
188	125	Marshall	82	100	+4	77	77	77
189	126	Marshall	83	100	+4	77	77	77
190	127	Marshall	84	100	+4	77	77	77
191	128	Marshall	85	100	+4	77	77	77
192	129	Marshall	86	100	+4	77	77	77
193	130	Marshall	87	100	+4	77	77	77
194	131	Marshall	88	100	+4	77	77	77
195	132	Marshall	89	100	+4	77	77	77
196	133	Marshall	90	100	+4	77	77	77
197	134	Marshall	91	100	+4	77	77	77
198	135	Marshall	92	100	+4	77	77	77
199	136	Marshall	93	100	+4	77	77	77
200	137	Marshall	94	100	+4	77	77	77
201	138	Marshall	95	100	+4	77	77	77
202	139	Marshall	96	100	+4	77	77	77
203	140	Marshall	97	100	+4	77	77	77
204	141	Marshall	98	100	+4	77	77	77
205	142	Marshall	99	100	+4	77	77	77
206	143	Marshall	100	100	+4	77	77	77
207	144	Marshall	101	100	+4	77	77	77
208	145	Marshall	102	100	+4	77	77	77
209	146	Marshall	103	100	+4	77	77	77
210	147	Marshall	104	100	+4	77	77	77
211	148	Marshall	105	100	+4	77	77	77
212	149	Marshall	106	100	+4	77	77	77
213	150	Marshall	107	100	+4	77	77	77
214	151	Marshall	108	100	+4	77	77	77
215	152	Marshall	109	100	+4	77	77	77
216	153	Marshall	110	100	+4	77	77	77
217	154	Marshall	111	100	+4	77	77	77
218	155	Marshall	112	100	+4	77	77	77
219	156	Marshall	113	100	+4	77	77	77
220	157	Marshall	114	100	+4	77	77	77
221	158	Marshall	115	100	+4	77	77	77
222	159	Marshall	116	100	+4	77	77	77
223	160	Marshall	117	100	+4	77	77	77
224	161	Marshall	118	100	+4	77	77	77
225	162	Marshall	119	100	+4	77	77	77
226	163	Marshall	120	100	+4	77	77	77
227	164	Marshall	121	100	+4	77	77	77
228	165	Marshall	122	100	+4	77	77	77
229	166	Marshall	123	100	+4	77	77	77
230	167	Marshall	124	100	+4	77	77	77
231	168	Marshall	125	100	+4	77	77	77
232	169	Marshall	126	100	+4	77	77	77
233	170	Marshall	127	100	+4	77	77	77
234	171	Marshall	128	100	+4	77	77	77
235	172	Marshall	129	100	+4	77	77	77
236	173	Marshall	130	100	+4	77	77	77
237	174	Marshall	131	100	+4	77	77	77
238	175	Marshall	132	100	+4	77	77	77
239	176	Marshall	133	100	+4	77	77	77
240	177	Marshall	134	100	+4	77	77	77
241	178	Marshall	135	100	+4	77	77	77
242	179	Marshall	136	100	+4	77	77	77
243	180	Marshall	137	100	+4	77	77	77
244	181	Marshall	138	100	+4	77	77	77
245	182	Marshall	139	100	+4	77	77	77
246	183	Marshall	140	100	+4	77	77	77
247	184	Marshall	141	100	+4	77	77	77
248	185	Marshall	142	100	+4	77	77	77
249	186	Marshall	143	100	+4	77	77	77
250	187	Marshall	144	100	+4	77	77	77
251	188	Marshall	145	100	+4	77	77	77
252	189	Marshall	146	100	+4	77	77	77
253	190	Marshall	147	100	+4	77	77	77
254	191	Marshall	148	100	+4	77	77	77
255	192	Marshall	149	100	+4	77	77	77
256	193	Marshall	150	100	+4	77	77	77
257	194	Marshall	151	100	+4	77	77	77
258	195	Marshall	152	100	+4	77	77	77
259	196	Marshall	153	100	+4	77	77	77
260	197	Marshall	154	100	+4	77	77	77
261	198	Marshall	155	100	+4	77	77	77
262	199	Marshall	156	100	+4	77	77	77
263	200	Marshall	157	100	+4	77	77	77
264	201	Marshall	158	100	+4	77	77	77
265	202	Marshall	159	100	+4	77	77	77
266	203	Marshall	160	100	+4	77	77	77
267	204	Marshall	161	100	+4	77	77	77
268	205	Marshall	162	100	+4	77	77	77
269	206	Marshall	163	100	+4	77	77	77
270	207	Marshall	164	100	+4	77	77	77
271	208	Marshall	165	100	+4	77	77	77
272	209	Marshall	166	100	+4	77	77	77
273	210	Marshall	167	100	+4	77	77	77
274	211	Marshall	168	100	+4	77	77	77
275	212	Marshall	169	100	+4	77	77	77
276	213	Marshall	170	100	+4	77	77	77
277	214	Marshall	171	100	+4	77	77	77
278	215	Marshall	172	100	+4	77	77	77
279	216	Marshall	173	100	+4	77	77	77
280	217	Marshall	174	100	+4	77	77	77
281	218	Marshall	175	100	+4	77	77	77
282	219	Marshall	176	100	+4	77	77	77
283	220	Marshall	177	100	+4	77	77	77
284	221	Marshall	178	100	+4	77	77	77
285	222	Marshall	179	100	+4	77	77	77
286	223	Marshall	180	100	+4	77	77	77
287	224	Marshall	181	100	+4	77	77	77
288	225	Marshall	182	100	+4	77	77	77
289	226	Marshall	183	100	+4	77	77	77
290	227	Marshall	184	100	+4	77	77	77
291	228	Marshall	185	100	+4	77	77	77
292	229	Marshall	186	100	+4	77	77	77
293	230	Marshall	187	100	+4	77	77	77
294	231	Marshall	188	100	+4	77	77	77
295	232	Marshall	189	100	+4	77	77	77
296	233	Marshall	190	100	+4	77	77	77
297	234	Marshall	191	100	+4	77	77	77
298	235	Marshall	192	100	+4	77	77	77
299	236	Marshall	193	100	+4	77	77	77
300	237	Marshall	194	100	+4	77	77	77
301	238	Marshall	195	100	+4	77	77	77
302	239	Marshall	196	100	+4	77	77	77
303	240	Marshall	197	100	+4	77	77	77
304	241	Marshall	198	100	+4	77	77	77
305	242	Marshall	199	100	+4	77	77	77
306	243	Marshall	200	100	+4	77	77	77
307	244	Marshall	201	100	+4	77	77	77
308	245	Marshall	202	100	+4	77	77	77
309	246	Marshall	203	100	+4	77	77	77
310	247	Marshall	204	100	+4	77	77	77
311	248	Marshall						

199	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	
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115	115	115	0	0	115	0	0
116	116	116	0	0	116	0	0
117	117	117	0	0	117	0	0
118	118	118	0	0	118	0	0
119	119	119	0	0	119	0	0
120	120	120	0	0	120	0	0
121	121	121	0	0	121	0	0
122	122	122	0	0	122	0	0
123	123	123	0	0	123	0	0
124	124	124	0	0	124	0	0
125	125	125	0	0	125	0	0
126	126	126	0	0	126	0	0
127	127	127	0	0	127	0	0
128	128	128	0	0	128	0	0
129	129	129	0	0	129	0	0
130	130	130	0	0	130	0	0
131	131	131	0	0	131	0	0
132	132	132	0	0	132	0	0
133	133	133	0	0	133	0	0
134	134	134	0	0	134	0	0
135	135	135	0	0	135	0	0
136	136	136	0	0	136	0	0
137	137	137	0	0	137	0	0
138	138	138	0	0	138	0	0
139	139	139	0	0	139	0	0
140	140	140	0	0	140	0	0
141	141	141	0	0	141	0	0
142	142	142	0	0	142	0	0
143	143	143	0	0	143	0	0
144	144	144	0	0	144	0	0
145	145	145	0	0	145	0	0
146	146	146	0	0	146	0	0
147	147	147	0	0	147	0	0
148	148	148	0	0	148	0	0
149	149	149	0	0	149	0	0
150	150	150	0	0	150	0	0
151	151	151	0	0	151	0	0
152	152	152	0	0	152	0	0
153	153	153	0	0	153	0	0
154	154	154	0	0	154	0	0
155	155	155	0	0	155	0	0
156	156	156	0	0	156	0	0
157	157	157	0	0	157	0	0
158	158	158	0	0	158	0	0
159	159	159	0	0	159	0	0
160	160	160	0	0	160	0	0
161	161	161	0	0	161	0	0
162	162	162	0	0	162	0	0
163	163	163	0	0	163	0	0
164	164	164	0	0	164	0	0
165	165	165	0	0	165	0	0
166	166	166	0	0	166	0	0
167	167	167	0	0	167	0	0
168	168	168	0	0	168	0	0
169	169	169	0	0	169	0	0
170	170	170	0	0	170	0	0
171	171	171	0	0	171	0	0
172	172	172	0	0	172	0	0
173	173	173	0	0	173	0	0
174	174	174	0	0	174	0	0
175	175	175	0	0	175	0	0
176	176	176	0	0	176	0	0
177	177	177	0	0	177	0	0
178	178	178	0	0	178	0	0
179	179	179	0	0	179	0	0
180	180	180	0	0	180	0	0
181	181	181	0	0	181	0	0
182	182	182	0	0	182	0	0
183	183	183	0	0	183	0	0
184	184	184	0	0	184	0	0
185	185	185	0	0	185	0	0
186	186	186	0	0	186	0	0
187	187	187	0	0	187	0	0
188	188	188	0	0	188	0	0
189	189	189	0	0	189	0	0
190	190	190	0	0	190	0	0
191	191	191	0	0	191	0	0
192	192	192	0	0	192	0	0
193	193	193	0	0	193	0	0
194	194	194	0	0	194	0	0
195	195	195	0	0	195	0	0
196	196	196	0	0	196	0	0
197	197	197	0	0	197	0	0
198	198	198	0	0	198	0	0
199	199	199	0	0	199	0	0
200	200	200	0	0	200	0	0

471	245	200	210	214	42	1.7	1.7	1.7
195	206	206	20	20	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
131	131	131	131	131	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
184	184	184	184	184	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
123	123	123	123	123	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
127	127	127	127	127	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
147	147	147	147	147	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
146	146	146	146	146	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
128	128	128	128	128	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
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12								



Pulling the purse strings: Ron Hollidge looking for business investments at his office and (right) in a factory ripe for a management buyout



Man with an eye for a deal

Smaller deals, but more of them. That is the prospect for management buyouts (MBOs) in 1991 as the recession bites. Ron Hollidge, the managing director at Lloyds Development Capital, sums it up: "Only one thing about 1991 is certain. Things will get a lot worse before they get better. The difficult market will certainly sort out the men from the boys."

"Those who have adopted a get-rich-quick attitude while times have been good will find it hard to withstand the problems, but the long-term players are simply seeing the current situation as a natural part of the economic cycle," Mr Hollidge says.

"However, the downturn is already creating many opportunities and at last prices are becoming more sensible."

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock also sees scope for MBOs. Its report on 1990 says: "As every surfer knows, as the tide ebbs the waves get smaller, but they are no less frequent. Much the same has applied to MBOs. Like the surfers, it is good to find most UK MBO players still standing up."

Times are tough, but careful managements are riding a wave of success, Rodney Hobson writes

Peat Marwick McLintock notes that there were five MBOs of more than £250 million in 1988, but only three in 1989 and there was just a solitary deal of £260 million last year. Yet the total of deals between £10 million and £250 million, which on average accounts for half the money that goes into MBOs, have held up well at about £2 billion.

There were 56 such deals last year, down from 69 in 1989, but still higher than two years ago. Although the total money raised slipped to £1.8 billion, that was 64 per cent of the total MBO market.

One cause of the decline has been the fading away of MBOs of listed companies after they peaked at 12 in 1989.

There were just four in 1990: Saga, Batley's, W. Alexander and Really Useful Company. Their combined value was £170 million, a fraction of the £3.8 billion spent on taking companies off the Stock Exchange the

previous year. Peat Marwick McLintock's report says: "We attribute the decline to a lack of courage from bidders at large. Another cause has been leverage. The fall of gearing in MBOs of more than £10 million from just under six times in the second half of 1989 to less than twice in the second half of 1990 is dramatic."

"Had lenders remained as generous, the £590 million equity raised in 1990 could have been leveraged to £4.1 billion instead of the actual £1.4 billion, thus doubling total funding."

"Either lenders were too lavish in 1989 or too parsimonious in 1990 — or most probably both," the report says.

The result has been that a £10 million MBO that once required £1.5 million of equity now requires £3.5 million.

Peat Marwick McLintock adds: "Many banks, burnt by earlier deals, are openly out of the market or protect themselves by offering un-

acceptable covenants. Debt arrangements have therefore become more concentrated, with just three groups, NatWest, Barclays and Bank of Scotland, handling 43 per cent of the deals."

Mr Hollidge confirms that although business has picked up considerably in the past few months, most potential deals are below £20 million and not all are of sufficiently high quality.

He says: "We are definitely seeing more realistic values, partly because of the lack of bank finance, but also because venture capitalists have learnt a fairly tough lesson on prices and structures over the past two years."

"We are hearing of major deals at a discount to net asset values and where interest cover is much higher and therefore the company will be much more resilient."

Mr Hollidge admits that companies that do not need to sell are hanging on to poorly performing subsidiaries in the hope that prices will pick up.

He warns them: "As in the housing market, just when you thought it could not go any lower, it did. These companies may hold on but then prices may go lower still."

Falling prices lighten the millstone of debt

Now is the time to invest as prices are low and companies performing well are born survivors, Jonathan Prynn reports

With the return of recession, veteran management buyout deal-makers say that the market has come full circle from the time of its birth and early development in the late Seventies to early Eighties.

This is certainly true in the financing of deals, for the debt mania of the final years of the last decade is now no more than a painful memory. Average debt-equity levels have fallen to those of ten years ago, with few deals now more than 100 per cent geared.

Two to three years ago, MBOs were being financed with up to 80 or even 90 per cent debt. Admittedly, the average was skewed by the effect of the high-leveraged mega-deals, but MBO structures of two, or three, parts debt to one of equity were the norm for most small and medium-sized deals.

Several factors have contributed to the big change of the past year. Prices have fallen back dramatically as competition from trade buyers has diminished and large companies have been forced to divest subsidiaries to reduce their borrowings. Prices have been particularly favourable for management

teams buying from receivers. Lower prices mean less debt is needed to meet the equity providers' requirements for acceptable rates of return. Equally importantly, the percentage of management equity need not change substantially to compensate for the lower level of debt.

In addition, the number of banks prepared to lend to buyout teams has declined significantly. According to Malcolm Cameron, the senior executive for acquisition finance at National Westminster, almost all the big American and Japanese lenders have withdrawn from the market, leaving only a handful still backing transactions.

Those few are far more cautious than previously, demanding tougher covenants on key financial ratios such as interest cover and tighter security. Banks are again looking for solid asset backing, with the purchase consideration preferably at a discount to those assets.

In the late Eighties, prices were usually at a premium to assets and the goodwill element was covered by mezzanine or even senior debt. Hardening bank margins mean buyout teams can now

expect to pay 2.25 or 2.5 percentage points over Libor, compared with the 2 percentage points that were the norm in the late Eighties.

The practice of underwriting large amounts of debt, in the hope and, in more buoyant days, expectation of syndication it to the market, has disappeared altogether.

A more common approach now is the "club deal", in which four or five banks are brought together to provide the senior debt element. This is a more time-consuming and labour-intensive process, but it reduces the banks' exposure.

In contrast to the banks, on the equity side there is still a large reservoir of funds waiting to be placed. Market estimates for the amount raised by MBO funds vary from £1.5 billion to £2 billion.

One of the biggest funds, the £320 million raised by Candover Investments in 1989, has so far invested £97 million. Most of the other funds were also raised in the past two years and many have a five-year investment period.

Although institutions are not yet putting pressure on the funds to invest, according to Robert Smith, the chairman and chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Development Capital, that could change if the funds continue to stay out of the market for another year. "There is no pressure to invest money now. The last thing the institutions want is for the funds to start spraying money around," he says.

For all the participants, now is probably a good time to invest, despite the problems. Prices are low and companies that are able to survive present conditions can probably survive anything. Within a year or two, a more favourable economic climate will return and levels of leverage will begin to creep up again. However, the market is wiser and saner now and the fed-up, debt-heavy deals of the peak of the age of leverage are unlikely to return, at least in the short to medium term.

	1989 Jan-June	1989 Jul-Dec	1990 Jan-June
Senior debt	80.1	84.0	58.1
Mezzanine	11.3	22.5	10.7
Equity and quasi-equity	19.2	13.5	24.8
Loan notes	4.8	2.6	3.1
Other forms	4.6	2.4	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sample financing: Value (£000)	1,321	1,380	848
Source: C&A			

Year	Number	Mezzanine value (£m)	Total value (£m) of mezzanine deals
1985	5	92.4	420.6
1986	10	104.2	503.2
1987	15	238.3	1,044.4
1988	20	172.0	1,220.8
1989	30	891.6	5,830.3
1990 Q2	11	89.2	668.8

Source: C&A

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more
substantial
than just
promises
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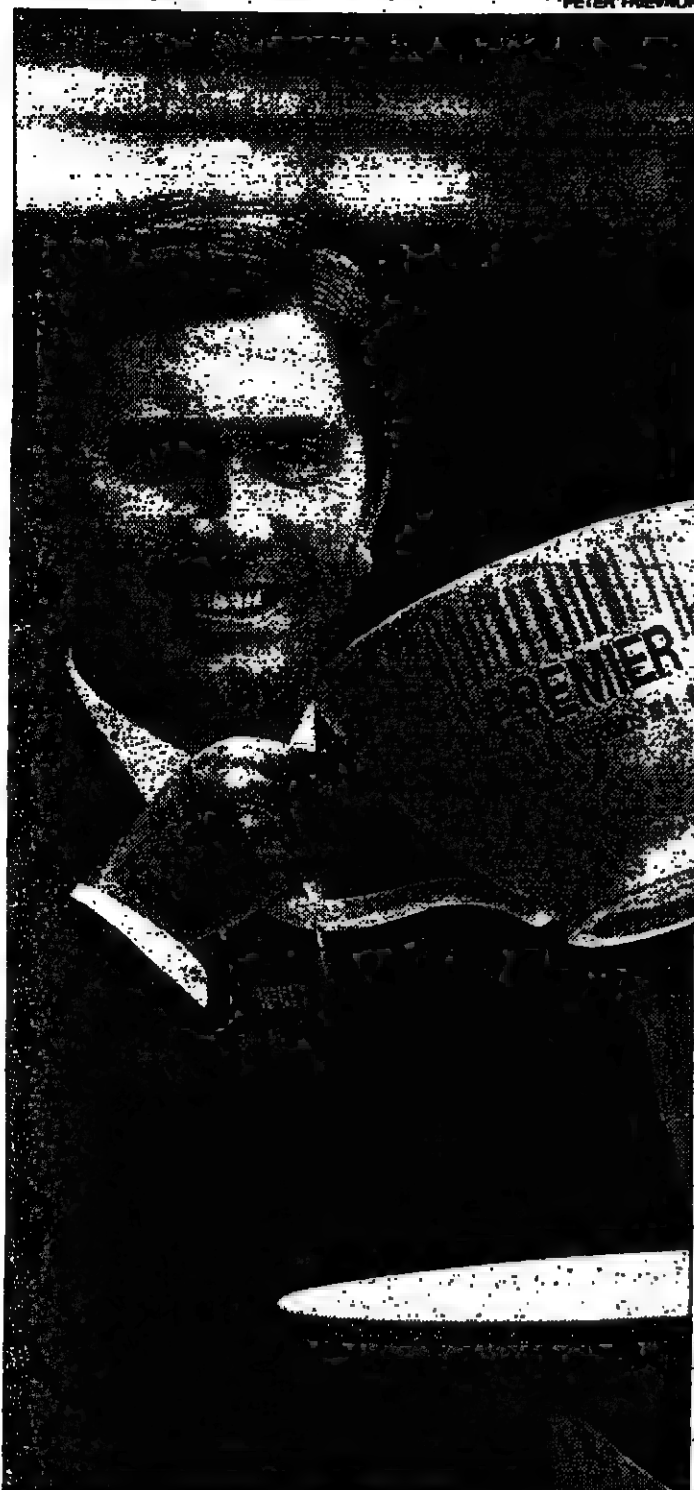
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Going it alone is no tea party

PETER FRIEMAN

With the days of making a quick million over and many casualties to prove the point, buyouts should be handled carefully, Jonathan Prynn advises



Not his cup of tea: Paul Judge quit over a trade-buyer decision

Something has gone terribly wrong with the management buyout production line that worked so smoothly in the Eighties. In those halcyon days, the three-year progression from deal to share flotation was a quick way to make a million.

Although many buyout teams did sell to trade buyers, this option was regarded as a "dirty exit", in which the ideals of management independence were sacrificed for short-term gain. The argument was summed up in March 1989 when Premier Brands, one of Britain's most successful MBOs, opted not to float, but to seek a trade buyer. The decision provoked the resignation of Paul Judge, its chairman. By then, however, the flotation route was already losing its appeal. In 1985, more than twice as many buyouts came to the market as were sold to trade buyers, according to figures from the Centre for Management Buyout Research, at Nottingham University. In 1986 and 1987, the numbers were about equal. However, in 1988, the first full year after the share crash, 34 buyouts were floated, compared with 49 sold to trade buyers. In 1989, trade sales outnumbered flotations by eight to one. Last year the flow of MBO new issues became a trickle, and in the second half it dried up altogether.

The reasons were clear. The market, shell-shocked by the effects of the recession, was simply not interested in buying shares in small, non-liquid, relatively high-risk new issues. As the stock market was so depressed, flotations would be unlikely to realise the 35 per cent rates of return demanded by the equity backers of deals.

One of the few former buyouts that did come to the market last year was the Goldsmiths Group, a jewellery chain, which floated at 150p in January. A trade sale had been an alternative as the company had been approached by several potential buyers, but none of the offers would have triggered the ratchet agreements that would have made the deal a success. Deferring the flotation would also have caused problems, Jurck Piascecki, the chairman, says, because of the compounding effect of the 35 per cent return requirements of the venture capitalist, Schroder Ventures.

The short-term horizons imposed on buyout managers by this consideration are among the biggest drawbacks in Britain's MBO industry, Mr Piascecki says. "The investment is effectively 'hot money'. The venture capitalists want to whip the investment out and put it in the next deal every three to five years.

"There is a need for institutions that are prepared to invest over the long term and accept compound growth of about 20 to 22 per cent. As it is, you have to go hell-for-leather for two to three years to trigger the ratchet."

Mr Piascecki believes a structure, such as that proposed to him by one potential trade investor, would produce healthier buyouts in the long run. Under this proposal, the investor would buy out the venture capitalists, while allowing the management to retain its shareholdings. However, it would grant the managers put-options over their shares that could be exercised at prices based on multiples of the profits growth of the company.

The management retains its equity involvement in the company while

having the 35 per cent requirement removed. The investor gets the benefit of the company's increased productivity and efficiency, while topping up its stake as the put-options are exercised.

Not all buyout managers agree that a trade sale means losing MBO benefits. Frank Blake, the managing director of Associated Fresh Foods (AFF), says his company's experience proves that a trade sale does not mean the end of the buyout story.

AFF was bought out from Asda-MFI in 1987 for £65 million. In July last year it was gobbled up by the Danish dairy group MD Foods for £92.4 million. The company had planned a flotation, but as market conditions deteriorated, this option looked increasingly unattractive.

A number of potential trade buyers had contacted the company and an acquisition with MD Foods went ahead, allowing continued development and growth after the buyout.

Sadly, the choice between selling and floating is not an issue in an increasing number of MBOs. Last year saw record numbers of buyouts going into receivership. In the first half of 1990, 23 buyouts failed, three more than the figure for the whole of 1989. This year is likely to produce a worse figure, as many of the highly geared deals of the late Eighties struggle to meet interest bills.

Fortunately, the lessons of that period have been learnt: buyouts are now far more conservatively structured. As with the quoted market a few years earlier, prices had been pushed up to unrealistic levels by over-enthusiastic buyers. For the companies now suffering as a result, the next two years will be more about survival than flotation or trade sales.



Studying the upturn in receiverships: Mike Wright

Venture capitalists versus the vultures

COLOROLL, the home-furnishings group, British and Commonwealth Holdings and Yellowhammer Advertising are just three big names that have suffered the ignominy of calling in receivers or administrators. Not for years have managements had so much opportunity to prove that they can do better than their companies' owners.

Frank Neale, a partner at Philpotts Ventures, says: "The Eighties began with buyouts from receivers as a main source of deals. Now the trend has returned, but there is a difference. Most receivership buyouts today are of healthy subsidiaries from overgeared bankrupt parents. Funding for a loss-making subsidiary is hard to find."

Healthy subsidiaries are often the reason the parent company went bust. The parent paid too high a price to take over other companies, then found it was unable to meet interest payments.

The Centre for Management Buyout Research, at Nottingham University, says 15 per cent of deals in 1990 were from receivers, against only 0.4 per cent in the previous year.

Professor Mike Wright at the centre says: "There is a return to levels not seen since the early Eighties."

Deals from receivers declined through the decade and had almost disappeared. Now there are more reconstructions

of companies and there are fewer exits."

Venture capitalists are not averse to the trend towards buying from receivers, as the prices tend to be lower. However, the risks are greater and the company comes without warranties or indemnities.

Clive John, who specialises in receiverships at Lloyds Development Capital, says: "The receiver's brief is to sell quickly, then get on to the next break-up."

Mr Neale says: "Once a business has gone into receivership, it is almost inevitable that the vultures will descend to pick up the pieces on the cheap. If the business is to be sold as a going concern, the receiver will want a quick sale."

"This goes against the grain for venture capitalists, who like to spend as long as possible getting an understanding of the business. The speeding-up of this homework must inevitably lead to short cuts, imperfect knowledge and, therefore, higher risk."

One of the biggest risks is the loss of suppliers and customers. Mr John says: "Suppliers may lose money as a result of the bankruptcy. If the same manager asks for supplies on the same terms, it is hard to see why the supplier will continue to oblige."

Mr Neale adds: "Customers may consider contingency plans, providing openings for competitors."

RODNEY HOBSON

ENTRIES FROM UNBUNDLED EXCLUDING BUY-INS

Type	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Jan-June 90	Jan-June 90
Sale of unquoted MBO to company	12	33	38	49	81	35	27
Sale of quoted MBO to company	-	11	10	20	10	4	8
Shareholder acquisition	28	36	34	34	11	9	9
Total	40	80	82	103	102	48	36

RECEIVERSHIPS

Period	Buyouts	Buy-ins
1985	1	-
1986	4	-
1987	7	1
1988	20	7
Jan-Jun 1989	9	2
Jan-Jun 1990	23	9

Source: CBMR

Strong nerves will win the day in the regions

Management buyout (MBO) activity is living up in the regions after a slack period in the middle and later part of 1990 (Rodney Hobson writes).

Michael Joseph, the director of regional offices at Lloyds Development Capital, says: "Demand was strong in Birmingham during 1988 and 1989, but in the first half of 1990 activity slowed. We have picked up considerably in the past two months and are looking at more deals than at any time in the past ten months."

"Leeds, where we opened a branch in the autumn of 1989, was similar. We had a busy time in the first half of 1990, but July and August were quiet. Just before Christmas activity picked up again."

Mr Joseph points to a number of potential deals in which the parent company is in difficulties, or a group is disposing of non-core businesses. "Sound and well-managed subsidiaries are available," he says.

Regional deals are still smaller than in London. Transactions worth more than £25 million are rare; most are between £2 and £15 million.

Expertise, however, has grown tremendously, and so has the realisation that it is available outside London.

Liz Martin-Rosenfeld, of Birmingham-based SUMIT Equity Ventures, says: "Birmingham has always offered a complete array of financial

Region	Total
Home counties/ East Angles	82
London	68
Northeast	35
Midlands	33
Northwest	24
West	18
Scotland	11
Northern Ireland	2
Total	271

Source: KPMG Peter Marshall Ltd/Sumit

services, including accountancy, legal, stockbroking and venture funding. Yet there has been a tendency for people to think that, because of Birmingham's proximity to London, the users of financial services could be equally well serviced in London.

"In theory this may be true, but our clients prefer to use local services. It makes it easier to meet at short notice or for a short time."

Mr Joseph agrees: "Expertise has matured tremendously in the past three or four years. On the accountancy side, the choice used to be very limited. Now there is a depth of experience and a breadth of choice for corporate advice and analytical skills."

Martin Gagen, 31's local director in Leicester, says regional interest in MBOs will continue to be strong despite the harsher economic climate. "The current turbulent conditions can be a hidden benefit to managers considering a

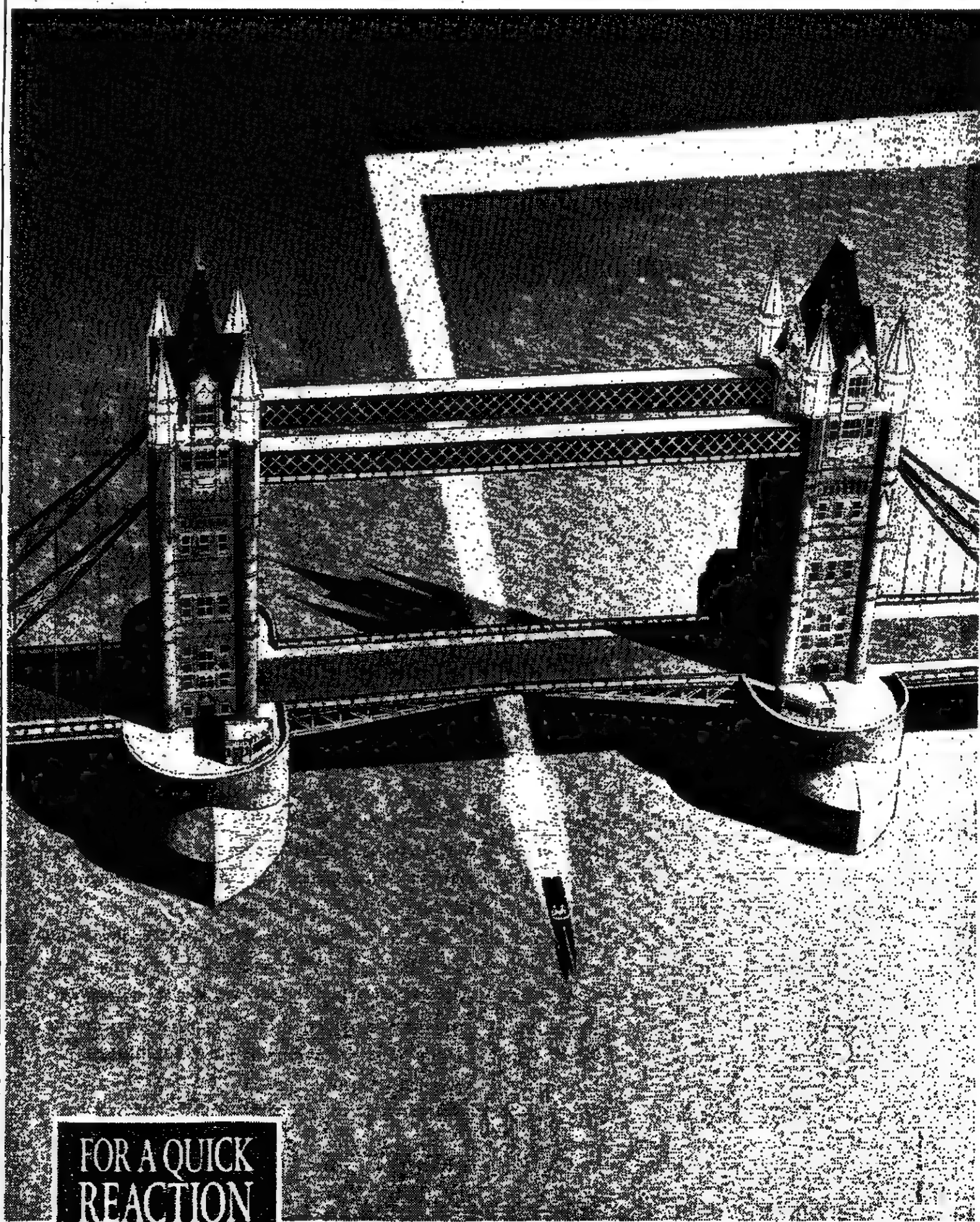
buyout," he says. "Large companies, forced to concentrate on mainstream activities, are looking to divest peripheral divisions. Who better to sell to than the existing management team?"

Mr Joseph says that the hardest part is getting the banks to put up the debt portion of deals in the regions. He says: "There has been a knock-on effect from bigger, less successful deals, and the feeling has grown in the banking community that buyouts are not such good news. It is harder to get debt even for good, solid companies."

"There is a danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Banks should be castigated for the highly leveraged deals that ended in bankruptcy, but these bear no relationship to £5 million deals where half is equity and half debt. Yet even that kind of deal is being frowned on and is not getting the kind of support that it should."

That attitude has stifled the retail sector in particular, leaving investors to turn their attention to engineering and manufacturing. Economic circumstances have also forced venture capitalists to look at asset backing rather than unrealistically hoping for high growth in earnings.

Of the regions, Mr Joseph says: "Now is the time for people with strong nerves. It may be five years before today's management buyouts start to see big profits."



All quiet on the US front

THE leveraged buyout (LBO), the growth-up American cousin of Britain's management buyout and the most-feared corporate finance instrument of the past decade, has declined to a shadow of its former self (Jonathan Prynn writes).

According to figures from Securities Data, the American financial information house, the value of completed deals (of which there were 195 in 1990) fell by 75 per cent to \$21.1 billion (£11 billion).

The decline in activity was most marked in the second half of 1990, when the effects of deepening United States recession were compounded by uncertainties in financial markets after the invasion of Kuwait. Now the financing for LBOs is simply not available, either from the weakened bank market or from the junk bond underwriters.

News of a stream of LBO bankruptcies is also unlikely to encourage the few management teams that might be contemplating a deal. In July,

an investigation into Revco, a US drug-store chain and a 1986 vintage LBO, found that the company was almost insolvent when the deal was made. Closer investigation of future LBOs was promised and the discrediting of the LBO concept continued.

Pricing of debt for LBOs has moved up dramatically, with upfront banking fees increasing from 2.5-3 per cent to 4-5 per cent. With the loan syndication market so uncertain, banks are seeking compensation for the increased underwriting risk. Meanwhile, issues of high-yield securities (or junk bonds as they are known) are off the agenda, with existing issues changing hands at massive discounts and yielding 25 to 30 per cent.

As in Britain, deals that do go ahead have been more conservatively structured. Debt now rarely represents more than 50 per cent of the finance. Two years before, 70 to 80 per cent had been commonplace.

The new year has brought better news. In mid-January, Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts (KKR) and Forstmann Little, the two most respected LBO backers in the US, separately announced they had raised a total of \$2.3 million (£780 million) for new deals. A few days later, IBM said it was close to completing the \$1.5 billion (£7.8 billion) sale of its typewriter business to a management team.

While these are encouraging signs, they hardly constitute a full-blooded revival. Bankers say the moribund condition of the market is in hiatus until the US economy decides its course for the next year.

Any deepening of the recession will see buying prices drop to levels at which opportunistic LBOs, backed by the new funds, are likely. Any improvement in the economy will see confidence begin to pick up, encouraging management teams to proceed with transactions. Even if this happens, confidence is likely to remain brittle.

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Following Britain's lead



Popular move: "The MBO habit has caught on," Chris Beresford says

Continental buyout deals now equal Britain's in value. Rodney Hobson reports on the growing market in France, Sweden, Italy and Germany

Britain is losing its dominance over the European management buyout (MBO) scene. In 1990, for the first time, MBO deals on the Continent equalled Britain's in value. Figures from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountancy firm, put last year's deals in Europe at £2.8 billion. This represented a 28 per cent fall, but the total value in Britain fell by 37 per cent.

The average size of deals of more than £10 million on the Continent was £42 million, compared with £36 million here. In the previous five years, starting from the first continental MBO in 1985, British buyouts totalled about £17 billion while European ones came to only £8 billion.

Chris Beresford, who is in charge of MBOs at Peat Marwick McLintock, says: "The habit has now caught on so widely that in future Britain will not overshadow the European market."

France, Sweden, Italy and Germany stand out on the Continent. France has had 32 per cent of the number and 42 per cent of the market value in the past six years. Sweden has managed only 18 buyouts, but their value is £1.9 billion, 23 per cent of the total. Italy, with 10 per cent by value, and Germany, with 9 per cent, were notably behind, despite having a greater number of deals than Sweden. MBOs are bolstered in Europe by the increasing availability of venture capital. The European venture capital pool is about £20 billion and investment is more than £3 billion a year. Although Britain is an important source of these funds, France leads on the Continent and the United States and Japan have been ready investors.

Buyouts and buyins account for only a fifth of deals backed by venture capital, but take up nearly half the money. Peat Marwick McLintock says

the average European buyout financed by venture capital is about £1.2 million. Expansion-stage investments need less than £500,000 each.

John Hustler, Peat Marwick McLintock's head of venture capital, says: "The figures are a clear demonstration of the attractions of European investment opportunities, with 1992 on the horizon. An important phenomenon has been the establishment of funds raised in one national market with the intention of their being invested in another."

"The UK is, in many cases, filling the gap in countries where institutional money is not freely available."

Peat Marwick McLintock believes that France and Italy are the countries in which MBOs are most likely to grow in popularity. France is gaining from its increasing expertise in financial services. Many family businesses have ageing directors with no obvious successors. Meanwhile, international competition is leading groups to divest non-strategic activities.

Italy, also, has many small and medium-sized privately owned companies with succession problems.

In Sweden, high interest rates are an obstacle to MBOs, although the depressed values on the stock market and the wealth tax on listed shares should lead to more buyouts.

In Denmark, economic conditions are steady and few companies are for sale. In Belgium, future values are unlikely to go higher, although MBOs are still popular.

The dark horse could be The Netherlands. Mr Hustler says: "The wave of mergers and acquisitions is continuing. Most companies have started evaluating their business portfolios. The further development of finance facilities will stimulate MBO activity."



Crisis manager: John Parker had double trouble just as he became head of Kosset

Avoiding a carpeting

MANAGEMENT buyout does and don'ts are unlikely to include advice on doing deals just before an international incident, or before your largest customer goes into receivership. These were two of the problems facing the management of the carpet manufacturer Kosset when the company was bought from the receivers of Coloroll last July.

Fortunately, the management team, backed by Phil-drew Ventures and Bank of Scotland, had built financial slack into a conservative buyout structure.

As a result, even with consumer confidence shattered in the wake of the Kuwait invasion and turn-

PROFILE

over and profits lost from the failure of Lowndes Queensway, which accounted for 10 per cent of sales, Kosset had between £4 million and £5 million of spare facilities or surplus cash. In addition, a credit insurance programme with Trade Indemnity limited the Lowndes Queensway losses to £15,000.

Such measures allowed Kosset to snap up another well-known carpet brand, Crosley, when it was sold by receivers in January. Although the purchase price has not been disclosed, John Parker, Kosset's chairman and

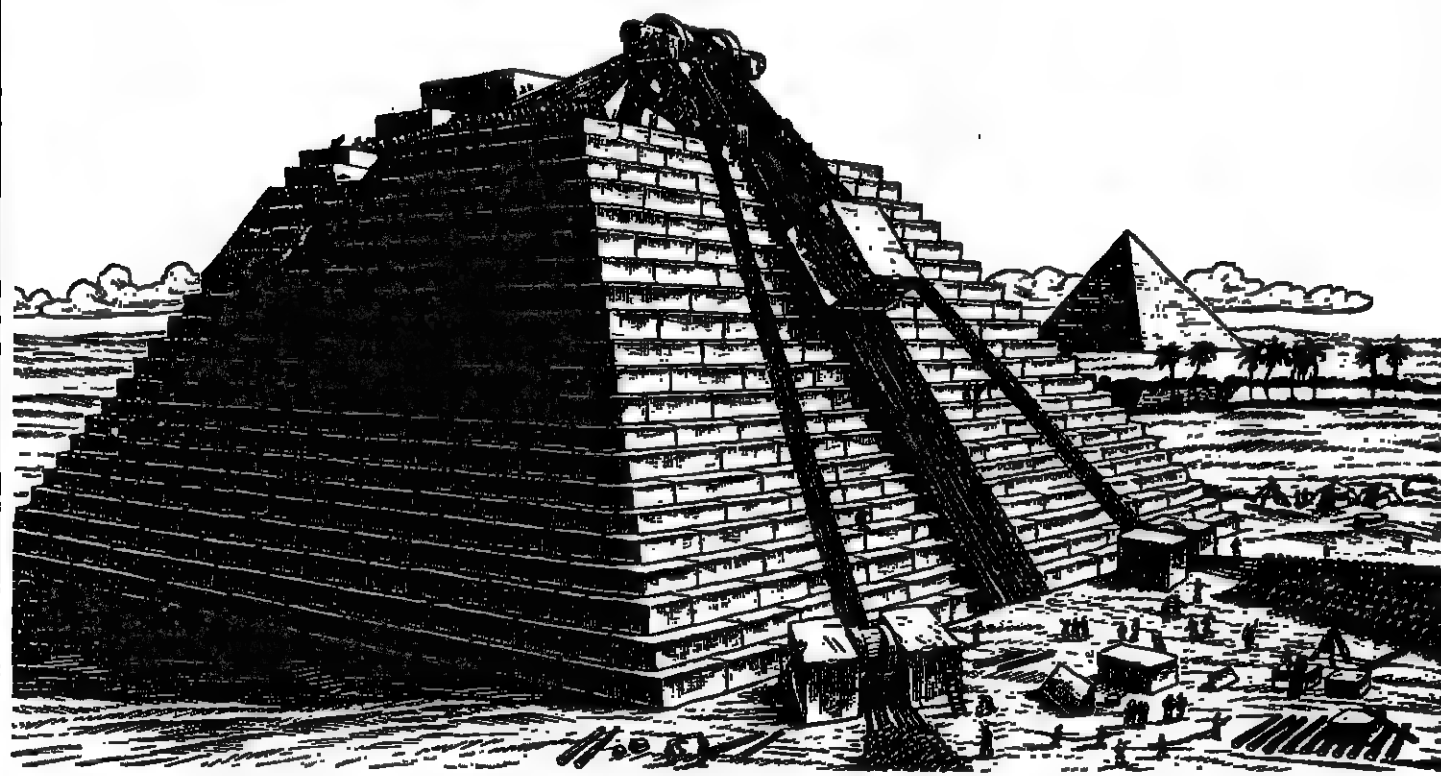
chief executive, estimates that the asking price would have been 60 to 70 per cent higher if Coloroll had still been in business.

The disadvantage of the receivership was the amount of effort needed to persuade suppliers and employees that they were not about to lose their money and jobs.

After the trials of the first six months as an independent company, Mr Parker and his management are taking a "steady as she goes" approach until business improves. They expect this to happen towards the end of the summer, but as they have already discovered, nothing is predictable.

JONATHAN PRYNN

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The man who bought the Storehouse store: Colin Pilgrim confounds the pessimists

Signed, sold and healed

FINANCE to buy out Heal's, a London furniture store, was sought by Colin Pilgrim early last year. With Magnet, MFI and Lowndes Queensway dominating the headlines, few backers responded eagerly (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Two expressed interest to Mr Pilgrim, the chief executive of what was then a Storehouse group subsidiary. Eventually, County NatWest Ventures decided to lead the deal, which was completed in

PROFILE 2

September for £3.75 million. Storehouse had announced in 1989 that it was to concentrate on its three core businesses. Mr Pilgrim approached the group and in January last year began drawing up a deal. The economic climate made a conservative package essential. The debt element of the initial financing was less than half the total.

"We realised management would have to release more equity than we would like to have done," Mr Pilgrim says. Heal's, which lost £1.9 million in its last year with Storehouse, has so far confounded the pessimists. Christmas and sales trading have exceeded projections and there is a feeling of confidence among the workforce. "For all 200 employees there is a new sense of identification with the business," Mr Pilgrim says.

Laughs all the way

ASK many venture capitalists what qualities they look for in buyout managers and a sense of humour is high on the list. This asset was vital in the £82 million buyout of Anglian Windows from BET, after ten months' negotiations.

Bill Hancock, Anglian's chief executive, recalls: "I was

PROFILE 3

told there are always at least three occasions in any buyout when you become convinced the deal is off. We had our share of those moments."

A good relationship with the lead investor is essential, if seemingly intractable problems are to be overcome. The chemistry between Anglian's team and Legal & General Ventures, which led the deal, was a big factor in the success of negotiations. "There were times when we had to cheer up the investor and when the investor had to cheer us up. Either way we ended up laughing," Mr Hancock says. He also advises buyers to keep the finance structure sensible. Anglian's debt element was kept to a level at which the interest bill was no greater than the dividend the



Chemistry: Bill Hancock

company had been paying BET as a subsidiary. BET backed the deal with a £30 million loan note on which interest payments depended on performance.

If profits fall below forecasts in every one of the first five years, the interest payment to BET will be reduced accordingly. If the shortfall is more than the interest due on the loan note, BET can convert the loan note into shares. On exit, BET will participate in any profit on the sale proceeds.

Giving the green light

Rodney Hobson
on the man who
says 'go' in public
sector sell-offs

Splitting up the National Bus Company showed the scope for management buyouts offered by the privatisation programme. Of the 62 deals struck, 36 were with management or employee teams. In many early deals, when uncertainty hung over the future of the industry, managements were often the only bidders and they were able to pay less than the value of the net assets.

The transport department encouraged managements to join in the bidding, sponsoring a series of seminars for employees. The aim was to ensure that one big buyer did not end up dominating the whole bus network.

The buyout route to privatisation has also proved useful in new towns and for local authorities. "The objective was to cut down staff ahead of the wind-up dates for the new town corporations, while continuing operations," says Peter Silkin, the audit manager at the National Audit Office (NAO).

"The new towns went out of their way to encourage buyouts or to fold staff into consultancies so as not to lose employees, who would naturally start to worry about their jobs."

There has been an increasing number of buyouts in and around the public sector in the past several years. The total now stands at more than 100.

Several were substantial, starting with the £53 million buyout of National Freight in 1982. Later, British Shipbuilders, British Steel, British Rail and British Leyland/Austria Rover all sold subsidiaries to existing management.

There have also been buyouts in local authorities, universities and health authorities. The first buyout of a government department took place in 1990 with the sale of the employment department's retraining facilities.

The fact that assets pro-



Watchdog: Peter Silkin, National Audit Office manager

viously purchased and maintained with public money are being sold off, or contracts for services let, involves the public interest and requires a high level of public accountability," Mr Silkin says.

Special requirements include openness and fairness in dealings between parties, full disclosure of relevant information and setting a fair price.

The NAO is not involved in political policy-making, such as whether privatisation is desirable in principle or the encouragement of wider share ownership. The NAO's role is to look at privatisations by central government, after they have happened, to see if the deals were struck in accor-

dance with the public interest. Raking in most money is not the only consideration. The NAO wants to see the public continuing to receive good service at reasonable prices, given that the privatised concern may still have a monopoly or dominant position in the market.

Related undertakings remaining in the public sector may need to be sure that they can still get supplies and services from a privatised subsidiary.

The main potential benefits of privatisation buyouts include streamlined operations, the release of capital assets and resources, the removal of subsidies, better efficiency and

incentives for staff. The NAO checks that these considerations have not been offset by potential dangers, such as the buyout being undervalued and left vulnerable to a takeover bid.

"The sale package may unnecessarily include surplus assets such as spare land, which can be profitably disposed of by the new management," Mr Silkin says. "There may be serious gaps in the accounting and asset records of the existing public-sector operation, or deficiencies in management information and performance control systems."

"Or the new management team may lack sufficient business acumen to succeed in the open market. If the business were to collapse, the planned benefits from the buyout would be lost."

The NAO is particularly aware of the preferential negotiating position of the existing management, which is familiar with the operations, strengths and weaknesses of the business. It knows the clients and has a clear picture of prospects.

"The existing management must not act as both vendor and purchaser," Mr Silkin says. "The people handling the sale need access to inside information. The managers may know special factors that will influence the future of the company and these must be made known to other potential buyers."

The NAO takes a careful look at privatisation buyouts where a continuing trading relationship exists with public-sector clients. "This needs to be watched carefully to ensure value for money," Mr Silkin says. "Risks are likely to be higher than with other suppliers because the management buyout company has yet to bed itself in as a coherent trading entity, and its ability to meet standards, price and delivery are unproven."

"Privatising through buyouts can be a weakness or a strength. If a market exists for the buyout to move into, it can be very successful. But one of the lessons to be learnt from some local authority buyouts is that they should not be solely dependent on their previous business."



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1989 FUND
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1989 FUND
KENWOOD
buy-out - September 1989
Finance raised
£54 million

CAMBRIDGE CAPACITORS
buy-out - July 1990
Finance raised
£13 million

KNICKERBOX
Development Capital - February 1990
Finance raised
£2 million

BPCC
buy-out - January 1989
Finance raised
£265 million

HAYS PLC
buy-out - November 1987
Finance raised
£275 million
FLOTATION OCTOBER 1989

HUMBERCLYDE FINANCE GROUP
buy-out - September 1987
Finance raised
£204 million
SALE TO COMPAGNIE BANCAIRE SA AUGUST 1989

RENTCO INTERNATIONAL
buy-out - May 1987
Finance raised
£25.8 million
SALE TO TIPHOOK PLC DECEMBER 1988

FAIREY GROUP PLC
buy-out - December 1986
Finance raised
£50 million
FLOTATION NOVEMBER 1988

CARADON PLC
buy-out - October 1985
Finance raised
£66.7 million
FLOTATION JULY 1987
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Training courses by the book

The increasing inventiveness of the organisations now providing legal training was highlighted at a London convention for legal educators last month. Perhaps the most significant development among a variety of bright ideas came from the magazine *PLC* (Practical Law for Companies), which has just started a distance learning programme that counts for Law Society continuing education (CE) points.

Taking advantage of the new CE regulations, the *PLC* initiative breaks new ground by acknowledging that reading magazines and other publications is a valid and recognised way for lawyers to refresh their skills and knowledge. Chris Millerchip, of *PLC*, says: "We are very pleased indeed that we have been accredited by the Law Society. It is a form of official confirmation of the quality of the articles we carry. It also enables the magazine to be used to much greater effect by our subscribers."

PLC is one of the new breed of legal magazines launched last year. Unlike most, however, it specialises in legal techniques and processes and is widely read in business circles, outside the legal profession. By giving detailed briefings on the conduct of important transactions, written by practitioners in leading firms, *PLC* is offering a constant supply of new legal know-how. By gaining the Law Society's endorsement for CE points, Mr Millerchip has ensured that this know-how will be digested and absorbed into the legal education system at a fraction of the cost of conventional courses. "We hope legal trainers in the



New routes to know-how: Chris Millerchip (left), Richard Vennard (centre) and Robert Dow, of *PLC*

large firms will use the articles as a basis for seminars and discussions," Mr Millerchip says. "It provides them with source material from which they can elaborate on their own firm's techniques. Lawyers in smaller firms will also find it useful for individual study."

The success of the new scheme lies in its assessment system. Unlike conventional courses, which lawyers simply have to attend to gain points, the distance learning programmes must include a formal assessment system. *PLC*'s system is based on a battery of rigorous multiple-choice questions, which leave nothing to chance. As a result, lawyers who opt for the distance learning route will have proved that they have mastered the material and not just skipped through it.

A parallel development just announced by Legalease, the publishers of the *Legal 500*, is a new training video on negotiating skills, specifically for lawyers, which also qualifies for CE points. Effective

know yet how the market will respond to the price. It will be an interesting experiment."

Cost-effectiveness is a prime concern for Central Law Training, which has also just launched its series of new "Practitioner Class" courses. The courses are based on the total immersion concept and are intended for lawyers wishing to switch specialisms, for redundant lawyers wishing to add to their portfolio of expertise, and for qualified women returning who need to update their skills.

Charles Brady, of Central Law Training, says: "Given the decline of certain types of work, especially in the property field, we saw a need for qualified people to have the opportunity to acquire new skills in those specialisms where demand is still strong."

Central Law Training is now offering courses in insolvency, employment law, personal injury, company and commercial law and litigation. They are all fields in which demand for legal services is still fairly buoyant. Every course lasts a full working week and is intensive. The courses are intended to take participants with little knowledge through to a basic standard of competence. They are highly practical and will enable lawyers to make a fresh start.

Mr Brady says: "Rather than losing good people, it is better for firms to retrain them through something like our practitioner courses and avoid the risk and cost of recruiting somebody new."

PLC may be contacted on 071-738 2303, Legalease 071-286 1890 and Central Law Training 021 633 4440.

INNS AND OUTS

Sunday solicitors

CLYDE & Co is moving into overdrive with the Gulf crisis. After the Lloyd's of London decision to stay open on Sundays, the firm has decided to keep its office in the Lloyd's building open during the weekend.

The recommendation by the Commercial Court Users Committee, chaired by Sheila Simson, a Clyde partner, that the British system of issuing writs should be brought into line with that of other European countries, has now been adopted. As a result, solicitors can issue writs to their clients 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via modern fax facilities now installed in the Admiralty and Commercial courts. On the basis that the first writ issued determines the first writ issued, the new system should give British parties a fighting chance of getting their case into an English court.

Gulf trap

THE Gulf war may have a direct impact on thousands of commercial contracts, most of which were signed long before Iraq invaded Kuwait. Most contracts contain the often ignored *force majeure* clauses, usually phrased in biblical terms, referring to events from plague to an act of God. They may, however, hold the power to render contracts that have no link with the Gulf region null and void.

The problem is intensified if the contract refers to established standard form contracts, as in the case of the construction industry. Clause 32 of the JCT Standard Form of Building Contract refers to "an outbreak of hostilities (whether war is declared or not) in which the United Kingdom is involved on a scale involving the general mobilisation of the armed forces of the Crown". That seems to reflect accurately the position in the Gulf, although Michael Gibson, at Berwin Leighton, disagrees.

He says: "The logic behind the clause suggests that it should operate only where any civilian call-up adversely and materially affects the det-

ermining parties' ability properly to perform in obligation. Any attempt to operate the clause in the current circumstances would be unscrupulous." Nevertheless, he suggests it would be sensible to modify the wording of clause 32 in all contracts now under negotiation.

Disabled deal

FURTHER suggestions for legislation on the employment of disabled people have come from the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Disabled People, a body appointed by the employment secretary.

In June the government produced a consultative document on the employment of disabled people. In a recent report the council has prescribed a wider role for the government than the consultative paper put forward.

At present disabled people rely on an employer's voluntary code of practice, which the council argues is not enough. Instead, it recommends legislation based on the health and safety laws, which would include a mechanism to allow disabled people to challenge discrimination by employers in the courts.

Regional bias

A TREND in favour of regional law firms among students who simply "want to be outside London" is likely to boost recruitment for the large number of provincial practices taking stands at this year's Law Fair. The fair, which is expected to attract more than 80 employers, is being held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, on March 14 and 15.

On the strength of last year's event, it is likely that more than 5,000 students will turn up to meet potential employers both from inside the profession and outside it. The fair is organised by London university's careers advisory service, and sponsored by the Law Society, the Bar and The Times.

Further information: 071-387 8221.

SCRIVENOR

Government guarantee for the terror victims

HEADLINES about "Terror Payers Cripple UK Tourist Trade", and we naturally reflect on aviation security. If security fails, who pays?

The 1929 Warsaw convention established the principle governing the liability of airlines for the international carriage of passengers, baggage and cargo. The convention, as amended by the 1956 Hague protocol, limits the liability of airlines in most cases of personal injury or death to about £30,000 a passenger.

The maximum liability limit for personal injury or death suffered on flights to, from or with an agreed stopping place in the United States, fixed by a special contract in 1967, is \$75,000 (about £39,000), but many airlines have gone further by

offering to pay damages of up to the local currency equivalent of 100,000 special drawing rights (SDR) or about £75,000 for personal injury or death occurring on all their services.

Victims or their families can obtain compensation above these limits only if they can prove the willful or reckless misconduct of an airline, unless manufacturers or other third parties are responsible. However, successful proof of willful or reckless misconduct, usually by reference to a subjective standard, is rare, not to say unknown.

In March 1971, the Guatemala protocol was signed with the intent of increasing the limit to £72,000. Montreal additional protocol No 3

(MAP 3), signed in 1975, was intended to convert their "convention" gold franc figure, on which the £72,000 was based, to a fluctuating figure of the local currency equivalent of SDR 100,000.

However, neither Guatemala nor MAP 3 is in force for a variety of complex reasons. Many think this is just as well because, as a price for the

higher limit, both removed the right to "break" it by proving intentional or reckless misconduct. In other words, breakability was to be replaced by a fixed limit of SDR 100,000 subject to proof of loss. The value of these two proposals in 1971 and 1975 has now fallen by approximately 80 per cent so that, 20 years later, a more appropriate

figure would be £300,000 or more. The present limits are far too low.

Whatever the result of the Gulf war, the battle for Kuwait may continue to be waged by terrorism through the aviation industry for years to come. It must be inevitable that some new set of aviation terrorism will eventually succeed, despite the much improved security introduced since the Lockerbie disaster in December 1988.

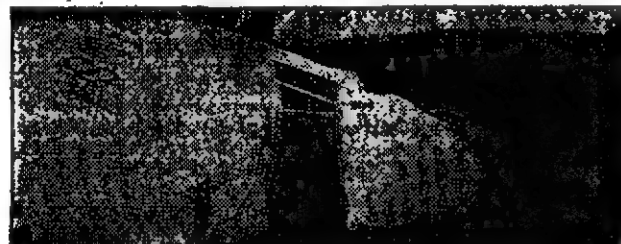
However arduous the lawyers, victims cannot rely with any degree of certainty on allegations of air-carrier negligence to secure enhanced damages. The tort system is not meant to transfer the burden of compensation for crimes from one victim, the passenger, to another victim, the airline,

and it should not be used for this purpose. There is a strong case for government to take over the liabilities of airlines when death or injury is caused by war or terrorism, using an aviation criminal injuries compensation scheme.

If we are to continue to fly during the difficult times to come, and thus stop terrorists from winning by default, it becomes necessary for governments not only to strive to make flying immune to terrorism, but also to compensate the victims when safeguards fail, and passengers should be made aware of this.

PETER MARTIN FRAS

The author is a partner with Fraser Chomley and the visiting professor of aerospace law at University College London.



Better security after Lockerbie has not deterred terrorism

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Legal Recruitment

CO/COMMERCIAL

TO £35,000
This leading West End practice is seeking a 1-2 years ppe solicitor with good articles and a first class academic record. You will be heavily involved with television and media law as well as a wide range of other work.

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A 'top ten' partnership requires an experienced shipping lawyer. Probably from a recognised shipping firm or with a P&I club, you will be handling casualty, cargo, charterparty and environmental claims.

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£25,000 - £45,000
This firm with an international client base is seeking a 1-2 year ppe solicitor to undertake tax planning for private clients. They also require a high calibre 2-4 year ppe solicitor or barrister for corporate tax matters.

Please telephone Laurence Simons, Shona McDougall or Patrick Allford on 071 931 3270 (071-483 1899 evenings/weekends) Or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. Fax: 071-431 4429

HERTS

C. £30,000 + CAR
A legal assistant is required to join this high profile company. The successful applicant, either a solicitor or barrister, is likely to have 2 years' experience including contract, IP and employment.

CAPITAL MARKETS

EXCELLENT
A lawyer is required by this leading bank to join their transaction team. Applicants must have a strong academic background and a minimum of 1 year's experience in either capital markets or corporate finance.

BERKS

C. £22,000
A solicitor or barrister with some commercial exposure is required by this major organisation. As part of a small team you deal with contracts, intellectual property and other commercial matters.

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Central London

A major UK multinational seeks an energetic, ambitious solicitor to cope with the increasing workload of a busy contracts department in its group head office. The post should be of interest to a graduate with excellent academic qualifications and two to four years' practical commercial experience since qualifying.

The work will involve advice on bidding and contracting for the supply of a wide range of capital goods to UK and overseas customers. Many of the projects undertaken by the Company's subsidiaries and associates are of a collaborative nature, and fluency in French is therefore essential. Career prospects are excellent.

The remuneration package will be competitive. Candidates should apply, with a full CV, detailing qualifications and experience in confidence to:

Lynne Fairbairn, Confidential Reply Supervisor at Rada Recruitment Communications, 195 Euston Road, London NW1 2BN - stating on a separate sheet any companies to whom your application should not be sent. All replies will be acknowledged.

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MANCHESTER

Busy and expanding Common Law Chambers with areas of specialisation in Criminal, Commercial and Family Law. We are seeking applications from able Practitioners of at least three years call with experience of, or interest in, any of these fields. Applications are particularly invited from experienced Criminal Practitioners and from Family Law Practitioners of between three and seven years call. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

Edward Hollins,
Hollins Chambers,
64a Bridge Street,
MANCHESTER, M3 3BA

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 4481

INSOLVENCY LITIGATORS
TO £40,000

Our Client, a highly successful City firm pre-eminent in the field of insolvency, seeks further able litigators.

Acting for an extremely diverse range of clients including most of the leading accountancy firms, receivers, administrators, liquidators, creditors and trustees in bankruptcy, the firm's specialist team handles literally all aspects of insolvency litigation, frequently involving complex and intellectually challenging issues and working to tight schedules. The work is both demanding and stimulating.

Two further litigators, ideally with around two years' relevant experience, are now sought who can demonstrate technical ability and, even more crucially, a commercial and imaginative approach. The successful candidates can expect not only a highly attractive salary and benefits package, but also enhanced prospects in a thriving and dynamic partnership.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact **Alistair Dougall** on 071-405 6062 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends) or write to him at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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TAX PARTNER

Certain law firms periodically feature in the media as the "one to watch", as "going from strength to strength" and so on. Our client merits such an endorsement more than most. A medium-sized City practice, it is currently embarked on a programme of development based on existing success, this derived from its wide-ranging services to predominantly commercial clients at home and overseas.

A critical element in the firm's planning is the appointment of a senior tax lawyer, someone who, if not already a partner elsewhere, could become a partner within one or, at most, two years. Accordingly, candidates should have upwards of approximately 4 years' experience and show clear signs of partnership potential. They should be prepared to practise taxation generally, but particularly in relation to corporate, financial services and commercial property transactions.

The remuneration for this position will reflect its importance. A salary of at least £50,000, plus bonus and pension, is anticipated for someone 4-years-qualified, with substantially more available for those with longer or outstanding experience. Competitive provision will be made for candidates who are already partners elsewhere.

For further information please telephone **Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M.**, on 071-405 6852 or write to him at **Reuter Simkin Ltd, Recruitment Consultants**, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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The full and effective provision of sound legal advice plays a vital role in the success of the Company's operation. It follows, therefore, that the individual responsible for such advice will be a key member of our UK team.

We are now seeking a solicitor or barrister with several years commercial law experience, ideally in or related to the oil industry. Reporting to Unocal's Regional Counsel, the successful candidate will be expected rapidly to assume responsibility for a wide range of legal matters arising primarily from the Company's exploration and production activities in the UK.

In addition to a good academic background and relevant professional experience, the successful applicant will have the personality and maturity necessary to establish good working relationships at all levels.

Salary will not be an inhibiting factor. Benefits include a Company car, non-contributory pension scheme, private medical insurance and free life assurance. Relocation assistance to the area will be available.

To apply, write with full CV to Elizabeth Cassels, Personnel Officer, Unocal UK Limited, 32 Cadbury Road, Sunbury-On-Thames, Middlesex TW18 7LU. Telephone (0932) 785600.

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Effective legal advice is essential to our continuing success. You must, therefore, be able to demonstrate the judgment and drafting skills that stem from a background within a commercial environment. This should be complemented by the ability to give accurate recommendations authoritatively, concisely and within set time constraints.

The rewards are commensurate with the importance of the role. So a highly competitive salary of c£30,000 will be augmented by an excellent package of benefits, including non-contributory pension, free life assurance, company car, free BUPA, mortgage subsidy (after qualifying period) and full relocation assistance where applicable.

To apply, please write enclosing a current C.V. to Jacinta Gillies, Personnel Department, London & Edinburgh Insurance Group, The Warren, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9QD, or telephone our 24 hour answering service on (0903) 212508 for an application form.

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We invite applications for the post of office manager/administrator in this well established and thriving set. We are looking for someone with communication skills and managerial and computer ability. Experience or knowledge of the legal system is an advantage. We will offer a generous salary in a pleasant environment.

For further details please apply with C.V. before 22nd February to:

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GU1 3DY.

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Busy and expanding Common Law Chambers with areas of specialisation in Criminal, Commercial and Family Law invite applications from able Practitioners of at least three years call with experience of, or interest in, any of these fields. Applications are particularly invited from experienced Criminal Practitioners and from Family Law Practitioners of between three and seven years call.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

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Hollins Chambers
64a Bridge Street
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All Box No. Replies
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THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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London and the South East

Solicitor Advocate

Durnford Ford has established an Advocacy Department that undertakes all advocacy for the firm's Specialised Departments. Advocacy is mainly in the field of Crime and Family Law but some Civil and Tribunal work is also involved.

The firm seeks a Solicitor who wishes to specialise in advocacy to join this Department. Applicants must be Solicitors holding a Practising Certificate.

The appointment is to our Advocacy Faculty based in our Administrative Centre in Hastings.

We also have the following appointments to make

Trustee and Executor Executive

A Solicitor or other suitably qualified person is sought to join our team in our busy Trustee and Executor Department. The Department specialises in Trustee, Executor, Attorney and Court of Protection work.

The appointment is to our Trustee & Executor Bureau in Eastbourne

Civil Disputes Executive

A Solicitor or other suitably qualified person is required to join our team in our busy Civil Disputes Department based in our Administrative Centre in Hastings.

Costs Draftsperson

An experienced Costs Draftsperson is sought to join our Contentious Costs Office. The appointment is to our Administrative Centre in Hastings.



If you would like to consider joining us, please write enclosing C.V. to Mrs. Mary Sney, Personnel Department, Durnford Ford Solicitors, Administrative Centre, 51 Harlock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BE. Telephone: (0424) 442442.

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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CONSTRUCTION LAW PARTNER

Our Client, a leading international City law firm, seeks a senior lawyer to head its thriving Construction Group.

The Group comprises a closely-knit team of technically and legally qualified construction experts. Its clients include the full range of employers, contractors, professionals and insurers seeking advice on all aspects of contentious and non-contentious construction matters.

The successful applicant is likely to be a partner or senior assistant in private practice, or a senior lawyer from the construction industry.

The partnership terms will reflect the importance attached to this appointment which provides a particularly attractive opportunity further to develop this specialist area of the firm's practice.

For further information, please contact Gareth Quarry on 071-405 6062 (071-228 5345 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



UNITED KINGDOM HONG KONG NEW ZEALAND AUSTRALIA

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Intellectual Property department of our client, a major City law firm, continues to experience steady but planned development.

On behalf of its substantial corporate clients, the department handles a broad range of both contentious and non-contentious work, much of which originates internationally. Because of the increasing volume of work, the department now requires a solicitor with a background in intellectual property who is, perhaps, making his or her first career move and who is able to handle, under minimum supervision, a caseload with the emphasis on patent and trademark litigation.

Possessing two to four years' relevant experience, the successful candidate will enjoy working in excellent modern offices with a successful team of intellectual property lawyers.

In the first instance please contact, in confidence,

Mack Dinshaw (MANAGING DIRECTOR) or Stephen Watkins (DIRECTOR)

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Woolwich Homes Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woolwich Building Society, has grown steadily over the last few years to become a respected name in the field of housing development. We are now looking for an experienced property specialist to join our small legal team based at Dartford, Kent.

PROPERTY LAWYER - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Reporting to the Company Solicitor, your responsibilities will include supervision of the company's Estate Conveyancing, as well as assisting in dealing with land acquisitions, development agreements and a wide variety of development related matters.

You should be either a qualified Solicitor with at least two years' relevant post-qualification experience, or a suitably experienced Legal Executive. You must be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of residential property development combined with a commercial, practical approach to the law. The ability to work on your own initiative will be key to your success in this role.

In return we can offer you a competitive salary plus an excellent range of additional benefits including a company car, concessionary mortgage facilities, BUPA, a contributory pension scheme, life assurance cover, a discretionary profit sharing scheme and relocation where appropriate.

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IN-HOUSE LAWYER



ECC Group is one of the world's leading producers of industrial minerals and a substantial producer of construction materials. It employs around 13,000 people in the UK and abroad and is one of the top 100 exporters with products sold in more than 60 countries.

The Group's legal department was only set up three years ago but is already well-established. It now needs to appoint an additional solicitor to be based in its new corporate headquarters in Theale, near Reading. The ideal candidate will have up to 2 years' post-qualification experience and will become involved in all aspects of the Group's legal activities both here and abroad including acquisitions and disposals, commercial contracts, UK and EC competition law and liaising with external lawyers; much of the work will have an international dimension.

This is an exciting opportunity to join an expanding, international Group and to play a key role in the further development of its legal department. Salary will be negotiable up to around £30,000, depending on age and experience, together with the usual benefits associated with a large company.

For further information please telephone David Jermyn, LL.B., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Limited, Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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We are seeking a solicitor or barrister with at least five years' post-qualification experience and who has already had considerable exposure to company/commercial work within industry or commerce. Experience of intellectual property work is not essential but an interest in the development of new technologies is desirable.

We can offer an attractive salary and profit share, a car, and, where appropriate, relocation assistance.

Please send CV to the Personnel Manager, British Technology Group, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BU.



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A senior post in the forefront of the public eye in the BBC's Legal Adviser's Division.

The BBC's Legal Adviser's Division provides a comprehensive legal service to the BBC and is involved in high profile and well-publicised media law cases.

To meet the demands of the increasingly competitive broadcasting environment, the Division is reshaping.

Within the Division, a dedicated Litigation Department is being formed which will be responsible for all the BBC's litigation in the key media law areas of contempt, defamation, copyright and commercial contracts. In addition, it will handle the BBC's conveyancing matters and industrial tribunal cases.

To become the first Head of Litigation, we need a qualified and experienced Lawyer. Besides relevant legal experience, the prime qualifications are strong management and litigation skills.

This is a senior post and the salary and benefits package will reflect its importance.

For an informal discussion about the post, you are invited to call Gareth Roscoe, our Legal Adviser on 071-927 4425.

To apply, please write to him with your CV at BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA, to arrive no later than Tuesday, 19th February.

It is expected that interviews will be held in the week commencing 25th February.

The Division, currently located in Central London, will be moving to White City later this year.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Successful applicants will join dynamic and expanding teams based at our Northampton office.

We are strategically located in the East Midlands region, an area which continues to experience strong growth in all aspects of company and commercial, private client and commercial conveyancing matters.

COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT

The successful applicant will be involved in the full spectrum of company and commercial work for businesses ranging from start-ups through medium sized companies to PLCs. Up to two years post qualification experience required.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSISTANT

The successful applicant will be assistant to the Senior Partner in the Commercial Property Department and will be dealing with a challenging level of high quality work for property companies and land owners. This will include sale and purchase, options, and Landlord and Tenant matters.

An interest in country pursuits will be an advantage to help mix with clients and enjoy the benefits of life out of London.

Two years post qualification experience required.

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The successful candidate will join a large, busy department and will deal with administration of estates, Wills and estate planning, and the creation and management of Trusts.

One years post qualification experience or good experience in Articles required.

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The successful applicant will join a busy and expanding Civil Litigation Department and deal with a substantial workload of plaintiff commercial litigation.

The post requires a pragmatic and innovative approach to dispute resolution.

Up to two years post qualification experience required.

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Applications in writing, together with full CV, should be sent to:

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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
£30,000++

Expanding South West practice seeks senior solicitor with at least 4 years' experience to augment its commercial litigation department. The successful candidate will enjoy substantial client contact and a quality caseload including professional negligence, banking, mortgage actions, insolvency and receiverships for a number of commercial and private clients. This new position offers good prospects for the solicitor able to assist in the development of the firm. Ref: 1412

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Top City firm with substantial insurance and reinsurance practice requires an assistant solicitor with at least 5 years' experience in this field. The work is varied and often complex, involving litigation or arbitration of large-scale disputes for a worldwide client base. Candidates should have strong academic backgrounds and reinsurance experience. A proficiency in languages would be a definite advantage. Ref: 1031

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For further information, please contact Karen Mulvihill at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH - 071 404 4646 (day), or 071 538 8391 (eve). Your application will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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For further information about the post and our package of benefits, please ring Oliver Holder, Assistant County Solicitor, tel: (0225) 753641 (ext. 3006) or Ian Gibbons, Principal Solicitor, (ext. 3052). Application forms, quoting ref. 82/74 from the County Secretary and Solicitor, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 6RN. Tel: (0225) 753641, ext. 3018. Closing date: Wednesday, 27th February, 1991.

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■ Responsible for legal services relating to high value accounts and acting as Assistant Company Secretary, you will also

deputize for the Legal Director in her absence with the full support of the Company and the legal team.

■ The successful applicant is likely to have at least five years post-qualification experience in a commercial environment, ideally in the financial services sector. As the position involves considerable liaison and negotiation, both internally and externally, we expect you to demonstrate strong interpersonal skills.

■ In return we offer an outstanding career opportunity as well as an excellent benefits package and a quality car.

■ Further details and an application form can be obtained by contacting: Miss Chris Sutton, Personnel Manager, Financial Insurance Group, Financial House, Eaton Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1YR. Telephone: 081-367 6000.



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Cardiff	Commercial Litigation	1 - 3 years
Cardiff	Insolvency	2 - 5 years
Pontypridd	Costs Draftsman	Exp/Trainee
Swansea	Matrimonial/Civil	1 - 3 years
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The area? Surrey. Your brief? To work closely with District and Family Health Services Authorities, provider units and G.P. fund holders, in order to develop management and health care strategies based on sound and comprehensive assessments of needs within your area.

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Closing date: 22nd February 1991.

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SOUTH WEST THAMES
Regional Health Authority

Game plan for a top score

Professional footballers must follow clearly defined career paths, but are well advised to consider wider roles, Derek Morgan writes

Of the 2,100 professional footballers in England and Wales, only the top 20 per cent are financially well-off, says Micky Burns, of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). "Football is a competitive industry and only very talented and lucky youngsters make it to the top," he says.

A fourth-division player earns no more than the average working wage, and a third-division player makes "a comfortable living but only for a short time".

The usual route into the game is from associated schoolboy to youth trainee to a full contract. The Football Association operates centres of excellence throughout Britain "to identify young players of outstanding ability and place them within an educational programme".

Recommendations to attend are considered from schools, county associations and league clubs. Selected youngsters from the age of nine can benefit from weekly coaching sessions. Although Football League clubs are among the bodies that run centres of excellence, a player who registers with a centre is not "signed on" for that club. Only schoolboys aged 14 and over may sign for a club. This is through the associated schoolboy scheme, and requires the consent of parents and headteacher. This effectively gives clubs an option on a player's potential, with a maximum of 30 boys a club. The next step is to be offered a youth traineeship, but most will not make the grade.

Every year about 600 youth

training places are available with football clubs. The early products of the scheme, such as Tony Adams and David Platt, are now international players. Trainees receive a basic rate of pay, although clubs can top that up.

Nottingham Forest football club has 18 youth trainees and 35 full professionals, three teams for contract players and an under-18 youth-trainee team. Trainees can play for the first team. The club has a residential hotel and trainees receive travel expenses for six home journeys a year.

Allen Clarke, the youth development officer for Forest, arranges schoolboy trials. "They come to stay with us for a few days to see if they like us, and we need to learn about their attitudes and their ability to mix with people," he says. Training covers fitness, skills and tactics, and weekly routines are geared to match days. It is not a cosseted life. Trainees clean out changing rooms and are allocated professionals to look after, which includes laying out kit and boots every day.

All trainees attend college on day release. "It is a short, precarious career," says Mr Burns, who is the education officer for the PFA's Further Education and Vocational Training Society, which is jointly managed by the Football League.

The PFA helps to fund second-career courses such as driving instruction and computing. Barnsley's Clive Baker has taken an Open University degree and Tony Agnew, the Sheffield United striker, is learning to play the saxophone to develop his potential as a professional musician.

The PFA is hoping that former players will, after suitable training, be able to referee league matches, for which the pay is £100 a game plus expenses.

Serious injury can come out of the blue. Players are insured for a basic £2,250, but can take out their own insurance through PFA Financial Services. Every youth trainee and professional is covered for private medical insurance. Contract players belong to a non-contributory pension scheme.

Some players aspire to management, which Simon Barnes, *The Times* sports writer, says has "the job security of snow-shovelling".

On the non-playing side, football offers career opportunities in commercial management, securing sponsor deals and selling hospitality packages to companies wishing to entertain. Administration requires a secretary and a treasurer. Stadiums need staff. Several clubs have women secretaries. Annie Bisset is Birmingham City's chief executive.

It is not generally worth writing to clubs for a trial. Mr Burns advises those interested to "play to the highest level you can".

He adds: "The football industry is a one-off. It is not a science, it is an art."



On the ball: Forest's Gary Charles signed schoolboy forms at age 14 and professional forms at 18

THE England under-21 player Gary Charles is a young professional with Nottingham Forest. He plays right full-back or central defence. He was seen by a Forest scout playing for Newham Schools in east London and at the age of 14 he signed schoolboy forms. "It was what I had always wanted to do and I had no doubts about going into football," says Charles, now 20. He trained in

Nottingham while still playing for Essex Schoolboys. After two years of youth training, Charles signed professional forms. He has played several times for Forest's first team and for Leicester City on loan. Charles, who has four England under-21 caps, does not

see professional football as just a job. He says: "You really have to enjoy the game, otherwise you would not be able to cope with the ups and downs. We get paid for something we love doing. You do not get big rewards until you are established in the first team." Charles's ambition is to be selected for the full England squad. "You know then that you are doing well," he says.

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For an informal discussion please contact Mr A.W. Sherriff, Chairman. Tel: (0226) 733221. Application form and information pack are available from Michelle Slime, Personnel and Training Officer, Barnsley Family Health Services Authority, 118 Gaudier Rd., Barnsley S75 2PS. Tel: (0226) 733221. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 22 February, 1991.

BARNSELY FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

PUBLIC & HEALTH CARE

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THE TIMES

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Further information from the Clerk to the Governors, 198, Menage Road, London E7 9PR, telephone 081 470 1450, fax 081 471 4284 to whom completed applications (letter, cv, and two referees) should be returned by Friday February 22nd.

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Closing date: 22nd February 1991.

Portsmouth
Flagship of Maritime England

CRICKET

England A batsmen bamboozled by Sri Lanka spinners

From RICHARD STREETON IN KURUNEGALA, NORTHWEST SRI LANKA

SPIN bowling of the highest calibre left England A floundering here yesterday as Sri Lanka A won the second one-day international by 40 runs to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. Amid a carnival atmosphere as the host country celebrated its 43rd Independence Day holiday, a 5,000 crowd swarmed jubilantly across the field at the finish.

England, set to make 174, lost their last eight wickets for 47 runs inside 13 overs and were dismissed for 133. Both the bounce and turn on an inconsistent pitch helped the Sri Lankan bowlers, but the England batsmen displayed mental and technical shortcomings against bowling of an unfamiliar type.

The outstanding bowler was Roshan Juregany, an off spinner, who took five for 20 in 6.2 overs after joining the attack as the sixth bowler. Juregany, who appeared in two Tests as a batsman in 1985 and 1986, was playing his first game for a month after fracturing his left arm in a club game. Five years ago he played alongside Bicknell, one of his victims yesterday, in a Guildford side which won the Surrey championship.

Juregany and Kalpage, another off spinner, together with Rajadurai, a leg spinner,

shared the wickets. None of them turned the ball extravagantly but subtle variations of flight and pace were enough.

For the connoisseur, frankly, it was all a delight to watch on a tropical tree encircled ground which has few rivals scenically. England looked bemused and bewildered and it will be fascinating to see whether the pattern is any different in the unofficial Test matches.

Morris and Blakey laid a promising foundation against the two new-ball bowlers. The run rate slowed, though, when Anurasi, slow left-arm, and Kalpage bowled. Kalpage soon caused Blakey to play on and had Morris leg-before with a quicker ball.

When Rajadurai bowled a top-spinner to beat Ramprakash at 86 as he made room to cut in the thirtieth over, the slump was under way. Ramprakash kicked out angrily with his right leg, fortunately missing the stumps, and was hooted and jeered by the crowd as he left.

Thorpe desperately swung the same bowler high towards the mid-wicket boundary, where Karnain sprinted in 25 yards and took a spectacular diving catch one-handed.

England required 68 from ten overs, with six wickets left, but the target became ac-

demic almost immediately. Bicknell gave Juregany, the man-of-the-match, a return catch and Fairbrother was bowled as he gave himself room to square drive.

Morris put Sri Lanka in on a pitch still damp from its preparation, but with only two seam bowlers England were unable to take full advantage of the conditions. Pick and Munton bowled with more control than at Galle on Saturday. Initially Sri Lanka were held in check and Munton took three wickets in two overs in his second spell. De Silva injured a foot and had a runner, but nevertheless led a late rally.

Lord's has told England A that Phil Newport will be released by the senior England party after the Perth Test match ends and it is hoped he will have returned to Sri Lanka by Thursday. He may therefore be available to play in the first unofficial Test match at Kandy on Friday.

ENGLAND A
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ENGLAND UNDER-19
13 players from which to choose for the first four-day match against New Zealand Under-19 at Napier which starts today.

Squad hit by injuries

ENGLAND Under-19 had only 13 players from which to choose for the first four-day match against New Zealand Under-19 at Napier which starts today.

Injuries among the team bowlers mean that Philip Wootton, Mark Broadhurst and Glen Chapple look certain to lead the first bowling attack, with the choice of the final places in the team resting with the three spinners, Mark Lowrey, James Hodgson and Chris Hawkes.

Players must learn folly of intimidating Test umpires

Perth AMONG the many melancholy thoughts England's cricketers could have pondered on their rest day here is that they may not be suffering the consequences of a deliberate and unedifying intimidation of Australia's Test umpires.

The players remain utterly convinced that Australia should have been two wickets down, rather than on level terms, on the fourth day of this final Test match. They say that Geoff Marsh's leg-side deflection off Gladstone Small on Sunday evening was with the glove, not the forearm as the umpire decided.

They made their feelings plain on the field with a prolonged show of histrionics and they were still grumbling about it yesterday. They should realise they brought it upon themselves, none more so than the man who claimed the catch, makeshift wicketkeeper, Alec Stewart.

By sacrificing Jack Russell's peerless glove-work to search for balance, before the Adelaide Test, England committed the crime of compromising on a rare quality. But the change has had another, equally disturbing effect with a huge increase in the number of appeals, ranging from the optimistic to the outrageous but with the common denominator of Stewart as the orchestrator.

Stewart is nothing if not an enthusiastic competitor.

Whether batting, fielding under the helmet at short leg or keeping wicket, he always likes to be involved. In some ways, this is to be applauded; in others, it is to be heartily deplored.

He has never been averse to a few sharp words with the oppo-

ALAN LEE

sition and any incident brewing on the field can be guaranteed to find Stewart in attendance. Saturday evening was an example. Greg Matthews hurled gratuitous insults at Phil Tufnell after he had taken his second wicket, it was ludicrous behaviour which the umpires were already quietly dealing with. It might have passed unnoticed by the crowd and, certainly, it did not need Stewart to come striding across like some third division footballer disputing an offside decision.

This, however, is his demeanour behind the stumps. Time after time, in this match, he has reacted with feigned triumph when a ball has beaten the bat. He has made the leg side his priority and has seldom taken the ball without, at the very least, throwing it skywards.

More than once he has stood, hands on hips in overt disgust, when an umpire has properly rejected a try-on.

Stewart has not invented this tactic. He is not even very good at it, for to overdo the act as he does is inevitably counter-productive. Umpires are human and will make mistakes, but few of them are fools. They know when they are being repeatedly conned and if a touch of perversity creeps into their subconscious, they can hardly be blamed.

In reality, of Australia, is a similar type, over-excitable and prone to appealing on the basis that volume and frequency, rather than conviction, might sway the verdict. He, too, has

been guilty of some infuriating excesses which must be judged as an attempt at intimidation.

What was significant, yesterday, the contrasting reaction from the umpires when the issue was raised. From Micky Stewart, of England, came a tacit approval for his own and, others, to continue with such fraudulent tactics. From Bob Simpson, of Australia, came the admission that he was as guilty as any but a strong call for it to be curbed.

Simpson said: "It is happening far too much, not just in this series or just in Test cricket, but in county and Sheffield Shield footballer disputing an offside decision."

"It is something we could do without, and I also feel that the posturing of close fielders after an appeal has been rejected is getting to be a worry. The umpires have got to be stronger and tell the captains that they will not stand for the nonsense."

One of Micky Stewart's great failings, in his time as England team manager, has been an inability to recognise when his players are abusing the spirit and standards of the game and to do something about it. This is a prime example. While not denying the charge of excessive appealing, he explained it away by saying: "We will always appreciate our umpires, and that is the style of cricket out here."

In other words, whatever the opposition can get away with is fair game. Surely, a shabby confession by a manager whose credibility, indeed, his entire future in the job, certainly his employment, is in the aftermath of this unhappy tour.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spms)	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA				
Kitzbühel	55 55 fair mogs	art cloud	0 13/1	
Piste conditions remain icy with some bare patches				
Obertauern	80 100 good varied	good cloud	-4 4/2	
Good skiing on and off piste				
St Anton	30 140 fair varied	fair fair	-2 4/2	
Fresh snowfall improving all runs				
FRANCE				
Alpe d'Huez	85 270 good varied	fair cloud	-6 13/1	
Pistes in good condition, lower slopes icy				
Isola	80 110 good varied	good cloud	-2 15/1	
Good skiing on all pistes, icy patches				
La Plagne	80 180 good varied	good fine	-5 19/1	
Good skiing, most pistes open				
Les Arcs	75 215 good crust	fair fine	-4 14/1	
Most runs well covered, all pistes open				
Val Thorens	90 220 fair varied	fair fine	-10 19/1	
Good skiing on upper and north facing slopes				
ITALY				
Cervinia	100 250 good crust	fair fine	-3 14/1	
Piste skiing fast if a bit wind blown above 2,555m				
Gail	80 80 good fair	good fine	-18 3/2	
Very cold weather, slopes in good condition				
SWITZERLAND				
Crans Montana	50 250 good varied	warm fine	-1 13/1	
Good skiing on all pistes				
Grindelwald	25 55 good varied	good sun	-7 13/1	
Excellent skiing, some icy patches				
Klosters	30 110 fair varied	icy fair	-3 13/1	
Good skiing on upper slopes, lower icy				
Saas Fee	80 220 good varied	fair fair	-8 14/1	
Very good skiing in many areas				
Verbier	10 180 fair spring	art fair	0 13/1	
Best skiing to be found above 2,500m				
Zermatt	105 115 good varied	poor fine	-1 14/1	
Good skiing higher up				

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

Johnson's former coach points finger at British athletes as he pleads his case



Unrepentant: Francis pictured in London yesterday where he was promoting a book

Francis claims the hard line has not curbed drug abuse

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

CHEATING means different things to different people. If Liverpool win the League championship by one point, the runners-up may well everybody to remember Bruce Grobbelaar's deliberate handball which ensured a draw with Manchester United on Sunday.

Football should be thankful that cheating is usually visible and is dealt with by referees. Athletics is not so fortunate.

Had Charlie Francis been a referee, there would be no Gary Lineker. Everybody would cheat. Ben Johnson cheated because most of the rest were. At least that was what Francis told him. Francis coached Johnson to an Olympic gold medal at 100 metres in a world-record time, only for the athlete to be caught. Were they cheating? "I see it as what is required if you wish to be No. 1," Francis said in London yesterday.

Note Francis's use of the present tense. If anything, he said, the problem is worse because of the push for harder penalties. Britain is a leading campaigner for genuine life bans unlike the one Johnson received but that, Francis said, only exacerbates the issue.

"You have a situation now where you have the worst of all worlds," Francis said. "You have driven the athletes away from doctors and they are going down to the gym and doing their own thing."

Predictably, Francis declined repeated invitations to offer the evidence which the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) had called for. "If he gives us evidence we will act upon it," Tony Ward, the BAAB spokesman, said. In his book, *Speed Trap*, to be published in Britain on Thursday and which he is here to promote, Francis makes several references implicating British athletes.

He refers to "two British female sprinters who were on 35 milligrams of Dianabol a day" in 1979. He even implicates one male field events athlete by name. Where was his proof? "I

am not prepared to get into individuals," Francis said. "I am not interested in coming forward with the odd piece of information. If Britain wants to find out it is to grant an amnesty to the athletes and let them come forward to tell their story."

Francis is of the opinion that giving names would serve little purpose in helping to set the record straight. His book quotes an "insiders' consensus" which put an 80 per cent figure on the number of male competitors on steroids at the 1972 Olympics along with a number of "insiders" from some countries including Britain. "I personally think it is higher," Francis said yesterday.

Johnson parted company with his coach six months, Loren Seagrave, last week. He refused a popular rumour in Canada that he was coaching Johnson by telephone. "Such a position is not possible," he said. "He has to do whatever the federation wants him to if he wishes to participate." And athletes in Canada, the governing body in Johnson's country, has forbidden anybody to have dealings with Francis.

Francis claims to have received requests from two of the world's top five sprinters last year for his coaching. He had declined, he said, because the athletes would suffer undue victimisation if associated with him.

It was clear that Francis had little sympathy for Johnson. In fact, he said, their association had benefited him. "I have had to ask myself whether the athletes were better off after knowing me than before. Did they better their level and my feeling was 'yes'. Considering the difficult financial circumstances they started in they ended better than they started. International sport is not a leisure-time activity."

"Ben drives to drug lectures with kids and shows up in his Ferrari Testarossa. I find that less than an enthusiastic condemnation of steroids."

Getting on right track with the law

By DAVID MILLER

The \$65 million lawsuit being brought by Dutch Reynolds, the positive tested United States 400 metres world record-holder, and the 19 occasions on which Ben Johnson tested negative during a period when, on his own admission to the Dublin Enquiry, he was on a continuous diet of steroids, is more than enough to demonstrate the critical relationship between sport and the law.

It was therefore valuable for the International Athletic Foundation, a charitable arm of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), to have held an international symposium to debate legal issues in Monte Carlo last week although the debate did not always make comfortable hearing for the IAAF.

Robert Armstrong QC, counsel to the Dublin Enquiry, was forthright in his criticism of both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the IAAF on two counts: for having dragged their feet in the years before Johnson's positive test in

Seoul, and for having failed to react to evidence that emerged during the Canadian enquiry.

It had long been apparent, according to the testimony of medical commission doctors, that competition testing was inadequate to catch the guilty; that in spite of knowing this, and that random testing was the only solution, the IOC and IAAF allowed the impression to be given that their competitors were fair.

Armstrong alleged that this had been the lack of reaction to evidence at the enquiry. For example, Dr Robert Kerr, of San Gabriel, California, testified he had prescribed steroids to 20 US medal winners in 1984. A US senator's judicial committee hearing on steroid abuse had been told by Pat Connolly, a coach to the US women's track team, that almost a quarter of the team were on steroids in 1984, and even more in 1988. Connolly alleged that between five and 10 men's medal winners were on drugs in 1988.

The defence against such allegations by Prince Alexandre

de Merode and Professor Arne Ljungqvist, chairmen of the respective medical commissions, would be that they could do nothing without names; and that the time for legal medical proof is long past. It is difficult enough legally upholding known positive tests.

Reynolds, having failed to institute legal proceedings in Ohio, his home state, is appealing to the arbitration council of TAC, the US federation; if that does not dismiss his two-year suspension, he is expected to go to the courts in London, home of the IAAF headquarters. The IAAF has already briefed counsel.

IAAF officials are optimistic that the precedent established in the case of Sandra Gossner, the Swiss athlete, who sought dismissal of her ban for a positive test in 1987 will act in their favour. Courts in Bern and then London upheld the decision of the IAAF arbitration panel, which had been chaired by Robert Elliott QC, the former Australian attorney general.

The London High Court ruled that the IAAF medical com-

mission laboratory's procedure was satisfactory, that the decision was honest, and that "a sports body is best equipped to judge such matters for itself."

Peter Coni, QC, with his intimate knowledge of rowing, argued for the harmonisation of legal principles among all international governing bodies for their greater protection against court action. He suggested that the IOC was in the position to help the IAAF. Perhaps, he said, Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, should respond to the initiative of the IAAF by staging a legal conference to which all Olympic sports were invited.

There is every reason to suppose, Coni argued, that athletes could not overturn the drug testing system if regulations were applied strictly. But he questioned whether a court would uphold the British imposition of a life ban under the rules of "natural justice". The most disturbing suggestions came from Gary Roberts, of Tulane University, a specialist in the anti-trust laws of America. He considered that regulations of the IAAF, and by implication of the IOC too, could have a bulldozer driven through them the more those two bodies become professional in outlook.

The IAAF was on thin ice, he said, once they crossed the line from being an amateur body to being professional; that they would then no longer be exempt from anti-trust ruling on commercial issues by the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. In other words, individual competitors would be free to sue the IAAF to pursue individual commercial activities even when they were not in the interest of the governing body. Somewhat alarmingly, but no doubt truthfully, Roberts proclaimed: "America is an amoral country."

Existing IAAF regulations, he suggested, were too often acting as a cartel for the protection of their own commercial interest and would not be defensible in American courts. Robert Simpson, the IAAF treasurer, admitted that serious consideration would have to be given to this matter by an international federation which now was amateur in title only.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Plans for another division

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE scheme for the establishment of three divisions in the Rugby Football League will move a step further tomorrow. The full council will meet in Leeds to debate further the proposals which embody a suggestion that there should be a second division of only eight clubs.

After tomorrow's meeting and debate, firm proposals will be placed for a vote at a special general meeting of clubs. Although there is a minority body of opinion opposed to a three divisions scheme, it is felt within the game that once the proposal is accepted, it could be implemented in time for next season.

One second division chairman firmly opposed to the idea is Mike Marsland, of Trafford Borough, who earlier this season convened a meeting of second division clubs to call for changes in the contracts system for players, which, Marsland claimed, was bankrupting second division sides.

Marsland said: "Gates will be so low in division three that clubs which are now hanging on will go to the wall." However, there is a counter-body of opinion which asserts that a successful third division side with hopes of promotion will attract bigger attendances.

Casualties of the first division, and Workington Town, of the second, have been named in Belfast, the invitation resulting from the "Belfast 1991" celebrations.

The Great Britain squad to play France in the return British Coal International at Headingley a week on Saturday will be announced on Thursday. Paul Newlove, the Featherstone Rovers centre, is likely to be out for six weeks after dislocating his elbow.

RUGBY UNION

Selectors look at Hall again

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE England selectors, as expected, have deferred the announcement of the side to play Scotland at Twickenham on February 16 until after this weekend's league matches. This will allow them to take a further look at John Hall, the Bath flanker, who is expected to play against Gloucester, and at such experienced midfield candidates as Simon Halliday (Harlequins) and Fran Clough (Wasps) who have recently recovered from longer injuries.

Both Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, and Don Rutherford, the technical director of the Rugby Football Union, have expressed their admiration for Scotland's display against Wales last weekend.

"The way their forwards moved collectively about the field must have given enormous satisfaction," Rutherford said yesterday. "They are as near to New Zealanders as they could be in many aspects of play."

The England A squad of 23, and the B team named to play Italy at Waterloo on February 13, will meet in Richmond at the weekend, though their training routine will depend upon the weather. If there is a hard frost they will work at an indoor venue, though they hope to use Twickenham, while the training immediately before the Scottish game, on February 14, will be in private.

Gary Pearce, the Northampton prop, will captain the B XV against what is expected to be a strong Italian side. It shows three changes to the team which beat Spain 50-6 at Gloucester last month, with Damian Hopley joining the backs at the expense of Phil de Glanville and Gary Holmes and Tim Rodber replacing, respectively, Victor Ubagana and Ben Clarke in the pack.

This, as much as anything, will be to give those three players a game rather than being a commentary upon the display against the Spanish. Hopley was removed from contention for that match because he was required for the senior squad against Wales, while Rodber and Clarke are fated always to be opposing each other at No 8.

ROWING

Oxford break record in Belfast

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

pleased with the performance. In the absence of Neptune RC, one of Ireland's top clubs, Belfast RC were second, 54 seconds behind the winners and only two seconds ahead of the Oxford second crew. Although the Boat Race crew announced they were not due until February 25, a margin of 56 seconds between Oxford and Isis must indicate fairly advanced progress in dark blue silhouettes.

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TABLE TENNIS

Xinhua can play for England

By RICHARD EATON

CHEN Xinhua appears to have won his struggle for full recognition as a professional player by the news that the ban on his playing open tournaments in Europe has been overturned.

The successful appeal, initiated last summer by the English Table Tennis Association, is in the process revealed that the former Chinese international has been eligible to play for his adopted country all season in the European league.

England missed the promotion to the super division they would probably have achieved with the former World Cup winner in their team.

It took the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), which overturned the European Union's ruling, three months to ensure that it was legally empowered to do so. This is the first time that the second question of why it has taken six months before the outcome of his appeal has become known.

After more than a year of hassle, beginning with a hard struggle to get the ITTF to agree to grant him a two-year eligibility rule was altered to six years, the Rothmans domiciled player seems to have the go-ahead to compete anywhere.

"Through all my problems I have always wanted to play for England and I am very pleased this gives me the chance to do so more often," he said. Aged 31, he could have at least four years to play at a world top 20 standard. But an enduring problem is financial. He has yet to find a package of sponsorship, clubs and exhibitions that will enable him to spend most of his time in England next season. The next step in the German Bundesliga success in the future depends on this.

FOOTBALL

Yorath gives young Welsh players their opportunity

By LOUISE TAYLOR

TERRY Yorath is treating tonight's B fixture against England at Swansea as a quest for experience rather than an emphatic victory. The Wales manager includes only five full internationals - Tony Norman, Gavin Hastings, Andy McVie, Malcolm Allen, and Glyn Hodges - in his side, and has motivated six of the players who faced England in an under-21 game last December.

Yorath yesterday said: "I would be very, very surprised if we could pull off a win. I am looking for individual performances in this game, and pointers to the future."

"I hope the younger players will regard this as an opportunity to gain experience. For some of the others, like Gavin Hastings and Malcolm Allen, who cannot get into the full side, it will be an opportunity to put themselves in the shop window."

By contrast the England team, captained by Gary Mabbutt, bristles with experience. Their attacking partnership of Peter Beardsley and Steve Bull boasts 60 senior caps between them.

The midfield thrust is provided by the Arsenal pairing of Michael Thomas and Paul Davis, while Earl Barrett, the impressive Oxford Athletic central defender who lines up alongside Mabbutt, is long overdue for international recognition.

Graham Taylor and Lawrie McMenemy, the England management team - who are assisted by Ray Harford of Wimbledon tonight - have selected Mark Walters and Dale Gordon on the flanks. In goal, Nigel Spink is preferred to Dave Beasant, of Chelsea, and Tony Cotton, of Manchester City, while at left back David Burrows has been chosen ahead of Nigel Winterburn, of Arsenal.

With David Howells, of Tottenham Hotspur, Matt Stanbury, of Leeds United, and Danny Wallace, of Manchester United, forced to withdraw through injury, England delay the naming of substitutes until today.

The Welsh senior side is due to play the Republic of Ireland at Wrexham tomorrow, but an inch of snow on the pitch at the Racecourse Ground has placed the game in jeopardy. Yesterday, Alun Evans, secretary of the Welsh FA, sounded out Liverpool and Everton about the possibility of switching the match to Merseyside, but he had received no response last night.

A spokesman for the Welsh FA yesterday said: "We are hopeful Wrexham will be playable, moving to Merseyside this late would be a long shot."

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Time for reflection: Pallister (left), Taylor, Barnes and Robson relax by the river

Bingham's spirits are lifted

By GEORGE ACE

A PUNCTURE on the way to the airport yesterday morning dented an evening of gloom for Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland team manager.

On Friday he received news that Colin O'Neill was ruled out of his squad and on Sunday the Sheffield Wednesday pair, Nigel Worthington and Danny Wilson, joined them because of injury. With his captain, Alan McDonald, already a non-starter for tonight's exhibition match against Poland at Wembley, Bingham's squad was not exactly ecstatic when he arrived at the team's headquarters just as the 16-strong squad were moving out for an afternoon training session.

His mood had soon changed, however. "Poland are a good side," he said, "and we will learn more from a competitive game than we would have done in a weekend at Bisham Abbey which was the alternative. It also gives me the opportunity of bleeding some of the younger members of the squad."

Mal Donaghy will take over the captaincy and Bingham appears certain to start with Stephen Morrow, the Arsenal defender now on loan to Reading. The players led by their captain, Jean-Pierre Papin, had threatened to strike over an eight-month ban imposed on Tapsie by the French Football Federation last week. Papin said yesterday that he would leave French football if the ban on Tapsie was upheld.

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French drama lacks thrills

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL by KEITH BLACKMORE

FRANCE's football, which has had more than its fair share of troubles off the pitch this season, drifted into the playing doldrums at the weekend. The ten first division matches produced only 11 goals.

Of the top ten teams, only Marseilles, who beat Paris 1-0 with a penalty by Blanc, managed to win and four of the matches produced no goals at all. All eyes were on the game between the champions and leaders, Marseilles, and Bordeaux, two of the most troubled clubs.

The Marseilles players only agreed to play after persuasion from their president, Bernard Tapie. The players led by their captain, Jean-Pierre Papin, had threatened to strike over an eight-month ban imposed on Tapsie by the French Football Federation last week. Papin said yesterday that he would leave French football if the ban on Tapsie was upheld.

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Wilkinson close to a pledge for life

By IAN ROSS

HOWARD Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, is expected to sign an extension to his contract which would keep him at the Yorkshire club for the next 15 years. Discussions between Wilkinson and Leeds chairman, Robert Whitley, about a deal which would constitute the longest contract in the history of British football as well as one of the most lucrative have been completed and an official announcement is likely within the next few weeks.

Wilkinson, who still has more than two years of his present contract left to run, is expected to delay putting pen to paper until after he receives assurances from his board of directors about certain improvements, which are scheduled to be undertaken at Elland Road in the near future.

Elland Road is leased to Leeds United by Leeds City Council who are in dispute with the club about the timing and scale of work. "We have agreed terms for extending the contract and the only thing holding us back is the dispute between the city council and ourselves over our work," Silver said.

Lee Chapman, the Leeds forward who sustained serious facial injuries during Saturday's game against Tottenham, yesterday was charged from hospital and may yet be fit enough to play in Sunday's Rumbelows Cup semi-final, first leg, against Manchester United.

Maxwell Holmes, the Leeds director, yesterday confirmed that he is to stand against Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea, for the vacant place of the football league's manager.

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Youngsters learn name of game at a tender age

BRIAN JAMES reviews the world skiing championships

Sealbach THE abiding image brought from Sealbach came not from the dramatic skiing of the stars, but from groups of mini-Mars and petite-Petras, aggressive and graceful as gulls, wheeling on the high plains above the village. They were probably all less than seven, ludicrously adept, and when marshalled by their teachers to race they slalomed like the wind.

Three of them, with run completed, then instantly stamped off a ski and held it, makers' name foremost, to some imaginary camera. Any Jesuits would have delighted in this proof of the dictum that, given the boy until six, the sponsor will have the man.

Commercialism runs this sport, of course. And blatantly. No medal winner ended the half for, often, sweltering press conferences, without his or her woolly headband firmly in place. Clearly a single word, advertising scraps or socks, on the outside of the forehead was far greater significance than any sentences formed within.

More newspaper space was given to tables listing the successful skis than to charts of the medals won by nations. European television plasters companies' logos on the action-shots. Ski for Austria? Hans and Heidi nowadays do or die for Dynastar.

When the circus struck yesterday after 15 days of golden sunshine, many, like local Stefan Eberharter and Uli Maier, were clapping unexpected gold, and many more counting the banknotes and silver.

Commercially, the championship was a "knockout" in the phrase of Richard Dorfman, the spokesman for Saatchi's sports sponsorship division. Selling off each of the 12 races separately, bits of the bite and banners and even selected parts of the pistes (like French ski-maker Rossignol's inspired capture of the downhill jump in the land of their Austrian rivals) easily reached the £7 million target, and recouped 30 per cent of the championship's cost.

Yet, if the object is so professional, why is the organisation sometimes oddly not? The organisers pitched the main downhill course so that observers peered uphill straight into the sun. And they so underestimated demands for man-

made snow that a FIS official declared: "Two inches less, and the championships could never have taken place. Never again will we allow a championship without a test event being run first."

What astonishes is his surprise would any entrepreneur have opened the Mar and Petra Show on Broadway without popping in to see the stage and check that the pit would hold the orchestra?

Brian cannot, alas, look back on the championship with abundant satisfaction. Martin Bell was once eighth in an Olympic Games downhill and many times in a World Cup test, a peak reached also by Lesley Beck in the women's slalom. Such performances were on no horizon in Sealbach, even though Britain now boasts a new and leaner "professional" racing set-up.

Mike Jardine, the British team's chief executive, put the downhillers' low placings and failures to finish down to inferior skis. Fischer, suppliers to many teams, gives the pick of every batch to men with medal chances. But is that the entire story?

"No, but skiing downhill is about confidence. And when every training run tells you you simply haven't the equipment to compete, confidence goes. Worse, you start to press too hard. That's where the falls come."

"This championship has taught us that both our men and women need far more training at speed. That's our future... all the effort aimed at improvement in skills. Different from our past, which was pure crisis management," the 12 races.

Safety, with the death on the eve of the championship of Gernot Reinastadler and an injury-toll that included four Norwegian skiers sent to hospital and home, dominated as much as the medals. Among the measures being tested at a dozen universities, at FIS's urgent instruction, is a webbing designed to absorb the force of terrorist gasbursts. Strung down the piste-side - rope outcrops that bounce downhillers back out of the trees, it could make its maker famous. And it comes from Britain.

Enqvist and Kulti give Swedes hope

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second successive year, Sweden dominated the Davis Cup for much of the last decade, will have to win a last-off match to avoid relegation from the world group. Sweden, finalists for seven consecutive years and winners three times in the singles, were not just beaten in the first round by Yugoslavia in Zagreb, they were humiliated. Magnus Gustafsson in a meaningless final rubber, their No. 1 player, Stefan Edberg, losing all his three matches in straight sets.

The extent of the defeat does not augur well for the future of Swedish tennis nor for Edberg's chances of retaining his No. 1 position from Boris Becker, who overcame problems of his own to lead Germany to victory over Italy.

Continuously, to host a Yugoslavian team of the two Goran Ivanisevic and Prpic, on grass in their own backyard was always going to be a tall order, but not that many years ago, Sweden could have called any number of clay court specialists - Wilander, Carlsen, Nystrom, Sundstrom, all of them top ten players - to the colours. That was quite apart from Edberg and the recent years the Swedish supply seems to have dried up.

At the US Open last year, no Swedish player reached the third round of the men's singles. At the recent Australian Open, no so long a jumble of nationalities for the Swedes, only Edberg and Wilander, the old faces, reached the last 16. For only the

second time in eight years, there was no Swedish player in the Davis Cup for much of the last decade, will have to win a last-off match to avoid relegation from the world group. Sweden, finalists for seven consecutive years and winners three times in the singles, were not just beaten in the first round by Yugoslavia in Zagreb, they were humiliated. Magnus Gustafsson in a meaningless final rubber, their No. 1 player, Stefan Edberg, losing all his three matches in straight sets.

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Faldo back in top spot

NICK Faldo has returned to the top of the Sony world golf rankings.

Faldo lost the No. 1 place to Greg Norman on October 16, but Norman's points average has suffered as he cut back his schedule at a time when he is historically dominant.

Faldo, who secured a United States Ryder Cup place with his victory at Pebble Beach, BOXING: The British cruiserweight title vacated by Johnny Nelson will also be at stake when Derek Angell, of Manchester, defends his Commonwealth title against Dave Garside, of Hartlepool, at Wembley on February 13.

CRICKET: Clive Radley, the former Middlesex and England batsman, is to succeed Don Wilson as MCC head coach. Radley, aged 46, came out ahead of six other applicants.

ORIENTEERING: Steve Hale and Yvette Hague, the double British champions and Jan Kjellstrom title-holders, head the 1990 national rankings just issued. Dick Jones (Clydeside) finished second, only 73 points down on Hale's 4,467-point total.

FENCING: Scotland secured first and second places in the ladies' epee championships in Colchester. Georgia Usher beat Valerie Cramb, 7-6, 5-6, 5-3. The Leon Paul International men's foil in London was won by Johnnie Davis, of Boston, over Donnie McKenzie (Meadowbank), 5-2, 5-3.

RUGBY UNION: The Rugby Football Union has been granted planning permission by Richmond Borough Council to rebuild the East Stand at Twickenham, at an estimated cost of £25 million.

TENNIS: Miles Maclean, of Britain, playing his first ATP Tour event, beat Xavier Daufresne, of Belgium, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the second round of the Telford Challenger.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

REGULAR SEASON: Pittsburgh Steelers 10, Cincinnati Bengals 7. Pittsburgh Steelers 10, Cincinnati Bengals 7.

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BASKETBALL

REGULAR SEASON: Detroit Pistons 101, New York Knicks 97. Detroit Pistons 101, New York Knicks 97.

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HOCKEY

REGULAR SEASON: New York Islanders 4, Boston Bruins 1. New York Islanders 4, Boston Bruins 1.

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KARATE

REGULAR SEASON: Gary Anderson 10, Steve Beckett 9. Gary Anderson 10, Steve Beckett 9.

REGULAR SEASON: Gary Anderson 10, Steve Beckett 9. Gary Anderson 10, Steve Beckett 9.

RACKETS

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

SNOKER

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

TENNIS

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

REGULAR SEASON: David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9. David Gubbins 10, Steve Beckett 9.

SOCCER LEAGUE

REGULAR SEASON: Arsenal 10, Liverpool 7. Arsenal 10, Liverpool 7.

REGULAR SEASON: Arsenal 10, Liverpool 7. Arsenal 10, Liverpool 7.

CRICKET

REGULAR SEASON: England 10, Australia 7. England 10, Australia 7.

REGULAR SEASON: England 10, Australia 7. England 10, Australia 7.

GOLF

REGULAR SEASON: Nick Faldo 10, Greg Norman 9. Nick Faldo 10, Greg Norman 9.

REGULAR SEASON: Nick Faldo 10, Greg Norman 9. Nick Faldo 10, Greg Norman 9.

FENCING

REGULAR SEASON: Steve Hale 10, Yvette Hague 9. Steve Hale 10, Yvette Hague 9.

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ICE HOCKEY

REGULAR SEASON: New York Islanders 4, Boston Bruins 1. New York Islanders 4, Boston Bruins 1.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

REGULAR SEASON: Wigan 10, Leeds 7. Wigan 10, Leeds 7.

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OTHER SPORT

REGULAR SEASON: Wigan 10, Leeds 7. Wigan 10, Leeds 7.

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SPORT

Robson uncertain of being selected against Cameroon

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE verdict on the immediate future of Bryan Robson's international career is to be delivered today. When Graham Taylor announces the England team to play against Cameroon at Wembley tomorrow night, the most significant revelation will be which of two men he has chosen to act as captain.

One alternative is Gary Lineker, who has filled the role in Taylor's three international teams. The other is Robson, the leader of the side for all but the first few months of Bobby Robson's reign. If he is selected, he is certain to reclaim the honour but will he be picked?

Taylor was yesterday as guarded as usual about his plans after a training session staged appropriately under a curtain of grey mist. He was not prepared even to confirm whether he intends to retain three central defenders or revert to a flat back four against the Africans.

Yet the consequences for Robson cannot be disguised should he not be invited to return after an absence of eight games. His ambition of winning 100 caps which he repeated once more yesterday, is

unlikely to be realised. So far he has 87 in his collection.

Taylor, who six months ago specified that he would no longer consider Robson in midfield, did concede that he has now altered his view. When he disclosed his squad last week, he gave an unmistakable indication that Robson would not appear in the starting line-up. Again, circumstances have changed.

The loss of David Platt and Steve McMahon, who would doubtless have been preferred had they been available, and of Neil Webb has left Taylor with only two other recognised central midfield players other than Robson. They are Paul Gascoigne and his controversial replacement against the Republic of Ireland in November, Gordon Cowans.

Steve Hodge and Trevor Steven would both prefer to move into the middle, where they play for their respective clubs, but neither of them has yet carried the additional responsibility for their country.

Taylor is considering the option but it would be surprising if he did so from the start. The three withdrawals have offered Robson not only a

reprieve but also an unforeseen opportunity to continue in his accustomed position. "I have been happy with my form at Manchester United," he said. "My stamina is fine and the more I play, the more the natural instincts will come back."

But he admitted that "there is room for improvement", an honest opinion which attracted the interest of the England manager. "You heard him say it yourself and I agree with him. I am not surprised by the way he's been playing but I do think that he can improve."

Taylor does not hold Robson in the same esteem as his predecessor. As well as christening him "Captain Marvel", Bobby Robson believed that he was irreplaceable. England illustrated in the later stages of the World Cup that they could not only survive but also succeed without him.

"There is no such thing as an irreplaceable player," Taylor said. "We should recognise that we've won games without him. We should never go overboard about the importance of one player but his pride is such that, like Lineker, he badly wants those one hundred caps."

Robson, who has never before appeared as a substitute, should lift his total to 88. If so, he can profit from the occasion by convincing Taylor that he should not necessarily be discarded from England's European championship qualifying programme even at the advanced age of 34.

Taylor intended to "look at one or two things to see if they work" but concedes that he has no choice but to make more extensive rearrangements. That includes the possibility of employing Robson as a sweeper, an appealing prospect which cannot be discounted.

Wales B go for new blood, page 41

Kelly refuses to mix with agents

GRAHAM Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, will today boycott a high-level meeting convened to discuss controlling agents within football, because agents will be there.

The meeting, in Manchester, is the latest involving representatives from the Football League, FA, Professional Footballers' Association and Football Association Executive Staff League, but the first to include agents.

Kelly, who has attended the three previous meetings of the players' agents sub-committee, said: "I wouldn't cross the road to talk to an agent let alone go to Manchester. I just

do not want to sit down with those people."

Eric Hall, one of the leading players' advisers expected to attend, said: "How can they make decisions without talking to the people concerned?" Kelly's response to that was a blunt "I don't care what they have to say." No FA replacement will be going in his place. The agents maintain that football's authorities cannot restrict their dealings with players, and Hall has warned: "There can talk about licensing agents, regulating them and introducing codes of conduct but if I don't agree with them, I won't abide by them."

Wilkinson's new deal, page 41

Rival groups in peace talks

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE rival groups bidding to stage the 2000 Olympic Games in London were last night still trying to unify their efforts. A formula acceptable to both sides - London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCR), has to be agreed by Friday, or else the British Olympic Association (BOA) will disqualify London and leave Manchester as the only contender to stage the Games.

Logistical difficulties in getting the leading figures in the dispute to meet had led to a delay in the talks, which got

underway again last night. With Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, having to attend a constituency surgery, a neutral figure was called in to chair the meeting - Lord Coombs of Harcliffe, the deputy chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) in whose area of east London some of the Olympic events may be staged.

One suggested solution was a joint committee of three people from each side with Coe as chairman and John Lelliott, the vice-chairman of the LCR, as his No. 2. The committee would then divide

the responsibilities for technical issues, fund-raising, transport and presentation between them.

It was hoped that this might solve the in-fighting, often because of personality clashes rather than issues, that have damaged the hopes of bringing the Games to the United Kingdom for the first time since 1948. London has already suffered one blow with the withdrawal of support by Tarmac, the construction company, which has pulled out because of the adverse publicity over the failure to achieve a single voice. However, it is hoped that if the two groups do unify then Tarmac will change its mind.

The bid from Coe's group has been supported by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies. But some people at the BOA believe that Peter Lawson, the CCPR secretary, is using a Games bid partly to raise the image of the CCPR.

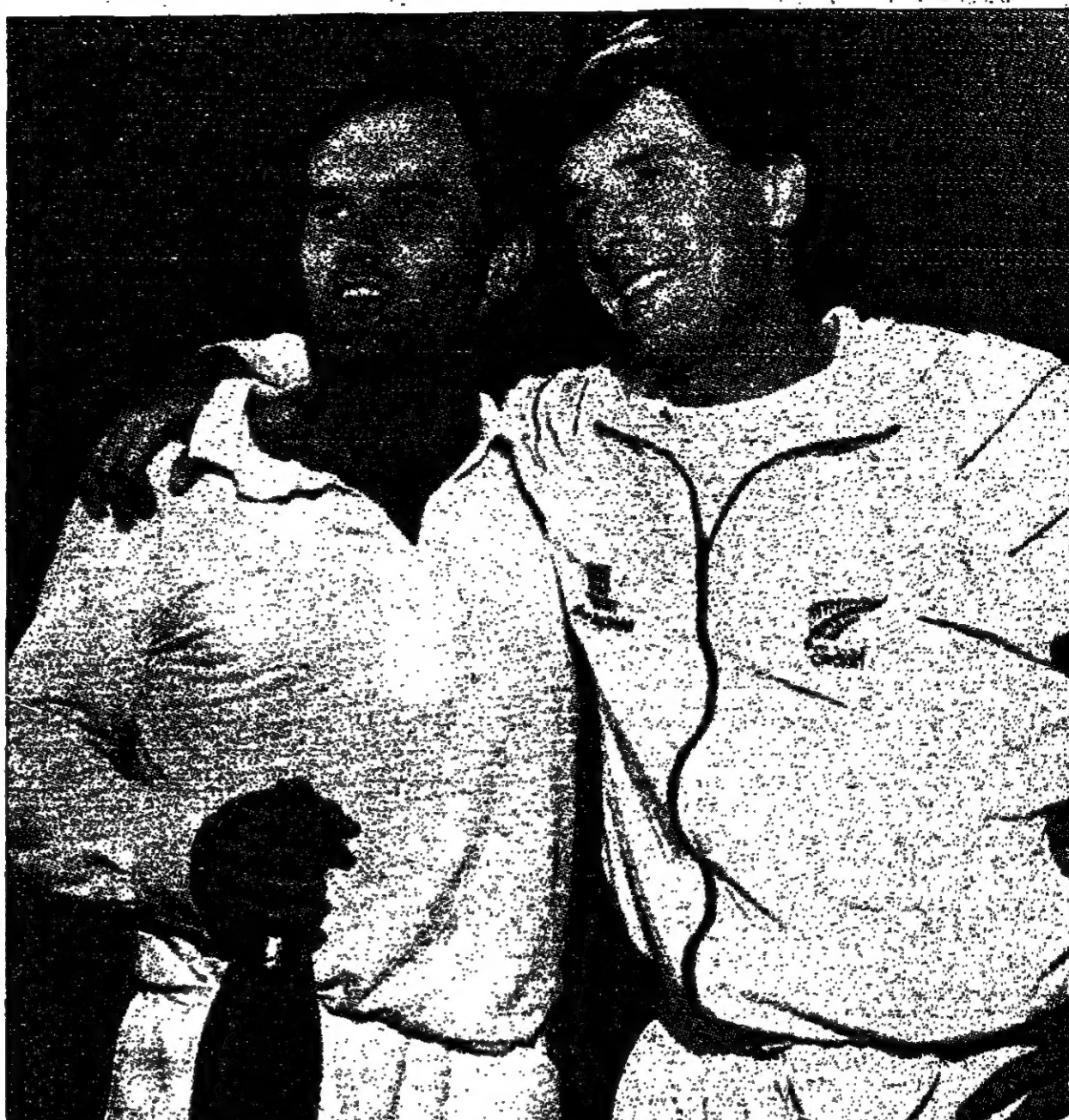
The LCR is the representative body for all 33 boroughs within the old Greater London Council area and also for sport in the capital. Although it sees Coe as a valuable international figurehead it would prefer to see him as president with someone who can generate commercial confidence as chairman.

On the other hand the London Olympic 2000 group believes that the bid must be firmly based in sport and are making much of the support of the governing bodies and leading sports figures like Gary Lineker and Daley Thompson, who have endorsed the bid.

In April, the BOA will decide whether to nominate a city to the International Olympic Committee which will make its decision on the location of the 2000 Games at its meeting in Monte Carlo in September, 1993.

Advantages of staging the Games, page 10

New Zealand batsmen on top of the world



Record-breakers: Crowe (left) and Jones celebrate their batting feats for New Zealand in Wellington yesterday

Indian five have case to answer

By SIMON WILDE

THE Indian Cricket Board said yesterday that a prima facie case had been established against five players, all of whom have played Test cricket, after the shameful events in the Duleep Trophy final last week which culminated in Rashid Patel's stump attack on Raman Lamba.

The five are Ravi Shastri, Kiran More and Patel, who were playing for West Zone, and Manoj Prabhakar and Lamba, of North Zone. The board will meet again on February 25, when evidence will be heard from Shastri, a former captain of India, who was involved in a match yesterday and unable to attend a long hearing in Bombay.

Although Patel's physical assault on an opponent was perhaps the most disgraceful scene witnessed on a first-class cricket field, the match at Jamshedpur, between teams with a long-standing rivalry, was full of acrimony. Patel is believed to have deliberately overstepped the popping crease to add even greater venom to a series of bouncers and beaters at Lamba.

The board's decision to delay its verdict should not be of any comfort to the five men. The president of the Indian board, Madhav Rao Scindia, said last week that "those who violate cricket's spirit have no right to be part of this sport".

WELLINGTON (Agencies) - Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones of New Zealand, broke the world record for the highest partnership in Test cricket here yesterday. It was the most significant of a handful of records set in the first Test match against Sri Lanka, which ended in a draw after New Zealand had fought back to overcome a large deficit on first innings.

Crowe, who was out for 299 off the final ball of the match, and Jones, who scored 186, put on 467 for the third wicket. They overtook the previous best of 451, set by Pousford and Bradman in 1934 and equalled in 1982-3 by Mudassar Nazar and Javed Miandad.

Both batsmen achieved the highest scores of their first-class careers, and Crowe's innings and the total of 671 for four were the highest for New Zealand in Test cricket. Their previous best total was 553 for seven against Australia in 1985-6.

By a remarkable coincidence, Aravinda de Silva and the Sri Lankan team had established similar landmarks for their country earlier in the match, which had begun with New Zealand collapsing to 174 all out. Thereafter, the pitch eased and the bat held sway.

Crowe, 126 not out at the start of play, dispatched a listless Sri Lankan attack around the Basin Reserve ground yesterday, as he raced

HIGHEST TEST PARTNERSHIPS

Test	Partnership	Score	Wicket
487	2nd W H Jones (186) and M D Crowe (299)	467	NZ v SL, Wellington, 1990-1
451	2nd W H Pousford (206) and D G Bradman (244)	451	Aus v Eng, The Oval, 1934
451	3rd Mudassar Nazar (281) and Javed Miandad (280)	451	Pak v Ind, Hyderabad, 1982-3
448	2nd C C Sharma (229) and G S Sobers (227)	448	WI v Ind, Kingston, 1957-8
413	1st M H Mendenhall (221) and P Roy (173)	413	Ind v NZ, Madras, 1955-6
411	4th P B H May (237) and M C Cowdrey (154)	411	Eng v WI, Edgbaston, 1957
408	5th S G Barnes (294) and D G Bradman (254)	408	Aus v Eng, Sydney, 1946-7

beyond his highest Test score of 188 and then passed the 250 made by Glenn Turner in 1971-2 against West Indies. Crowe hit two sixes and 29 fours, batted for 609 minutes and faced 523 balls. His push towards a triple century kept spectators interested until the end, when he was caught down the leg side off his rival captain, Ramanunga.

"It's a bit like climbing Everest and pulling a hamstring in the last stride," Crowe said. "We knew about the record and that we had one run to go when we went into the dressing-room for tea. We were beside ourselves, pretty nervous because it was a great moment."

Jones also batted with considerable skill to play New Zealand out of their first-innings difficulties. He was in for 361 minutes, faced 454 balls and hit 15 fours before being caught at point.

The teams meet again tomorrow in the third one-day international at Dunedin. The second Test begins in Hamilton on February 22.

New Zealand's first innings: 174 (R J Tait 44, S G Barnes 4 for 45, G F Labrooy 4 for 38).

Second innings: 30-1-01-0 (R J Tait 44, S G Barnes 4 for 45, G F Labrooy 4 for 38).

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Defeat for England A, page 40

Simpson advises Gooch to stay put

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Gooch received support and encouragement from an unlikely source here yesterday when Bob Simpson said it would be "a tragedy" if the England captain was driven to thoughts of resignation by the margin and manner of the Ashes defeat.

The Australia coach, summing up the series with Australia poised to win 3-0, said: "I know Gooch will leave here feeling miserable. As a captain, you feel defeat much harder than the other players. You take it personally. But if he took the attitude that he has had enough, it would be a tragedy for English cricket."

"When he was in charge, there was a noticeable difference in what was happening on the field," Simpson declined to involve himself further in England's leadership affairs by speculating on the future of the team manager, Micki Stewart, or of specific players such as Allan Lamb and David Gower, but he did admit: "We had some hard times, too. My lowest point was when England beat us in three days in Melbourne, four years ago."

"I had thought we were on the way back and I felt terrible. But we had patience and that is what England must have now. Some hard decisions will have to be made about certain players if they want to get the right balance to progress."

"I won't enlarge on that too much, except to say that if I was picking the England side I would want a couple of hard-nosed batsmen, because what they are missing most of all is a Barrington type, someone who sells his wicket dearly."

Simpson, whose positive style of public relations is a refreshing contrast to the ways of the England management, has always said that he would stand down when he thought his job was complete, and he may consider the time is close if his team can win in the Caribbean this spring. "I am contracted until after the World Cup next year," he said. "Then we'll see how things stand."

He believes, as I do, that Australia have handed us this Ashes series without being at their best. "We haven't played as well as we did in England two years ago," he said. "The bowling has not been so precise and the batsmen's job has been harder because England have bowled much better."

"The big difference between the sides is that England's batting is still as vulnerable. It is the same technical trouble, and I have seen the evidence of it in county cricket. They are not looking to build an innings, not always playing the best shot to each ball."

"If I could recommend one change in the way English cricket is run, it would be to have a four-day county championship. I understand the financial problems but I believe they could be overcome, and in cricket terms it would certainly be a step in the right direction."

SCORES: England 244 (A J Lamb 91, R A Smith 56, C J McDermott 5 for 97) and 188 (Smith 43, P J Sheehan 40, M G Hughes 4 for 37); Australia 207 (G B Cook 54, G R H. Marsh 60, D E Malcolm 3 for 54 and 38 for 1).

Lessons for England, page 40

RFU reprimands Cooke for silence

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) announced yesterday an official reprimand for Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, in the wake of last month's Wales-England match, but is to take no further action. Since the union also believes itself to be in limbo over interpretation of the amateur regulations, however, it is no nearer to solving the grievances of its players which contributed towards the Cardiff contretemps.

The immediate problem debated by the RFU executive committee last Friday, which reached a unanimous verdict, was the failure of the team management and players to give television interviews after the international match with Wales on January 19, or to attend a post-match press conference. But of greater significance is the fog in which it finds itself in respect of the regulation covering what players may do to earn money from their sporting prowess.

Within the next 48 hours a code of conduct will be sent to the England squad players, which they will be required to

acknowledge. "There is nothing sinister in it and I hope the easy relationship with the press is not in jeopardy," Michael Pearey, the RFU president, said.

The union is also seeking an immediate meeting with its Irish, Scottish and Welsh counterparts so that among them they can thrash out what commercial activities are permissible for players and some level of parity can be achieved. "The other unions are very keen that this should take place as soon as possible," Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said.

In a statement (four years after another match in Cardiff when the RFU felt moved to censure its own players for their on-field behaviour) the union regretted "the decision of the England team management and players not to attend the post-match TV interview and press conference at Cardiff on January 19."

"The England manager has acknowledged that it was a serious error of judgement and he has apologised. He has been reprimanded and his attention drawn to his agreed terms of reference. He and the

players have expressed their regret and the matter is now closed."

The matter is not closed, of course, and nor will it be until the players can make sense of the regulations. The action in Cardiff was partly the result of an emotional, historic occasion, but also the frustration arising from a misinterpretation of the amateur rules and what the players perceived as intrusive methods.

Moreover, the players are well aware that their market value will be high this year up to and during the World Cup, but thereafter several of the present squad are likely to retire, ending any financial interest. If they are to make any worthwhile money, too, it will come from advertising rugby gear, which is not allowed.

Cooke's terms of reference include responsibility for the general conduct of his team and "by custom and tradition, to speak to the media after each match". Pearey said: "We don't need to take any further steps because I think everyone has learned their lesson."

thing to do with money, I am quite satisfied of that. I have accepted the players' assertion of that, though inevitably there has been some frustration at the lack of progress over the regulations." Pearey had what he described as a "healthy exchange of views" with England players over the weekend, when he explained the difficulties under which the RFU was operating.

It has also become apparent, however, that what English players may not do, Scottish players may. Several members of the Scottish team were pictured in the Scotland-Wales match programme last weekend advertising dress shirts and five team members are contributing articles to newspapers north of the border, a practice which the RFU still frowns upon because it has yet to receive clearance from the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB).

In fact, the IRFB has made provision for a special debate on the contentious regulation four (communication for reward) when its members come together in the middle of next

month for the annual meeting. Players are permitted, ostensibly, to make money from non-rugby related issues, and Wood, who disagrees with the use of match programmes as advertising vehicles for players, insists that newspaper articles for payment do not come into that category.

"The one thing you cannot expect the RFU to do is go beyond what the IB says is acceptable," he said. "In New Zealand John Kirwan has set up a company for the promotion of John Kirwan to get round the regulations which, you might say, goes against the spirit of the regulations and I would agree. But it works and if England players did the same we would be faced with the same dilemma."

"The players have been party to these difficulties all the way through. They have set up a collective to share out proceeds. They could establish a company for their own promotion but until the IB resolve what is possible, we can't help the players."

England look at Hall, page 40

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